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USSR Report

POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL AFFAIRS

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PARTY AND STATE AFFAIRS

SHKOLNIKOV REPORT TO SUPREME SOVIET ON PEOPLE'S CONTROL

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[Report delivered by Deputy A.M. Shkolnikov, chairman of the USSR People's Control Committee, at 19 November morning joint session of the USSR Supreme Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities: "On the Activity of the USSR People's Control Committee"]

[Text] Esteemed comrade deputies!

The Supreme Soviet's examination of the activity of the USSR People's Control Committee at the present session--at a time when tremendous work is taking place in the country, in line with the 27th CPSU Congress decisions, to radically restructure all economic life and management--is evidence of the major role which the party and state assign to people's control in strengthening discipline and order and resolving the tasks of the acceleration of socio-economic development and the renewal of society.

Thanks to the day-to-day support of party organizations and soviets, people's control has won recognition as a major state and social force in the struggle against shortcomings and for the fulfillment of party directives, Soviet laws, and government decisions. But in present-day conditions people's control organs are called upon to operate more actively and aggressively and to move more rapidly to restructure their work in line with the party's demands. Today the people's control consists of 4,600 committees formed by the soviets and more than 1 million groups and posts elected by the working people, in whose work 10 million workers, kolkhoz members, specialists, and representatives of science and culture participate on a voluntary basis. A large detachment of people's controllers is active within the USSR Armed Forces.

The CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and USSR Council of Ministers constantly direct the work of people's control and systematically charge the committee with checks on the actual fulfillment by ministries and departments of decisions adopted in the sphere of economic and sociocultural building. Permit me, comrade deputies, to report on the work of the USSR People's Control Committee. Since its formation in April 1984, the committee, carrying out the directive organs' instructions and in accordance with its own work plans, has carried out some 600 checks in various sectors of the national economy and regions of the country. The results of the majority of checks have been examined by the committee itself or in our instructions by ministries and

departments. Not infrequently, at the request of the party and soviet organs of republics, krays, and oblasts, materials from the checks have been submitted to them for examination.

The committee has reported the results of checks on the most important questions to the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Government, and corresponding resolutions have been adopted in many cases. We also regularly submit materials from checks to the standing commissions of the Supreme Soviet.

In the period under review the committee and the local people's control organs, guided by the party's instructions, the provisions of the Constitution, and the Law on People's Control, have concentrated their activity above all on monitoring the fulfillment of state plans and targets, uncovering available reserves and bringing them into use in production, and ensuring savings and rational utilization of material, manpower, and financial resources. Practically one in two of the committees' checks have been into these matters.

The measures adopted both centrally and locally to eliminate the shortcomings revealed have in many cases helped to rectify the state of affairs, prevent interruptions in work, and strengthen discipline.

However, we are fully aware that the effectiveness of people's control is not yet up to today's demands and it still frequently fails to fulfill one of its main tasks--to prevent shortcomings. Not infrequently, instead of an aggressive struggle against negative phenomena, all that happens is that committees and groups adopt uncoordinated measures on individual violations.

We must admit self-critically that this is partly due to shortcomings on the part of the all-union committee, whose activity is not organized in such a way as to fully guarantee the effective work of republican and local organs of people's control. It is therefore no accident that at certain recent sittings and sessions of republican Supreme Soviet Presidiums serious criticisms of them have been voiced.

For us, restructuring means changing that situation, bringing the work of the committees and groups up to the level of the new tasks, and ensuring that this work becomes far more effective, so that the contribution of people's control to the common cause becomes weightier.

The situation, as Comrade M.S. Gorbachev stresses, requires the socialist system of people's control to operate more actively, tackle major socioeconomic problems, and prevent those leaders who do not care about state affairs from taking things easy. Exactingness and more exactingness--that is the main requirement of the existing situation.

One such problem, which is of key significance in the implementation of national economic plans, is the fulfillment by every ministry and enterprise of deliveries under contracts and targets for the range of output produced. In view of this, the committee stepped up its monitoring of compliance with

contractual discipline in the period under review. The work of associations and enterprises under 26 union and republican ministries was checked on this matter.

The situation regarding the fulfillment of plan targets and contracts for output deliveries is changing for the better. But the question remains acute, and many enterprises and certain sectors are still not working smoothly or coping with contractual commitments and are allowing plans to be wrecked. Checks show that the reasons for this situation are mainly subjective, arising from poor organization and a low level of discipline in fulfilling tasks. And this even applies in the sectors which are working under the new economic management conditions.

The committee recently checked on 40 enterprises and associations of the Ministry of the Electrical Equipment Industry. It transpired that the ministry leaders, having achieved some improvement in the initial stage, subsequently relaxed their attention toward matters of improving management and the economic machinery and let this work look after itself. It is no accident that gross violations of contractual discipline were uncovered at nearly all the enterprises. As a result of the lack of monitoring by the ministry, delivery contracts were often concluded in smaller quantities than the orders required, while the deliveries themselves were postponed to a later date. This enabled the enterprises to report last year that they had fulfilled nearly all deliveries, whereas targets for the production of 343 basic types of output, which is one-third of the entire range, were not met.

Nor has there been a substantial improvement this year. Moreover for many enterprises the ministry has unjustifiably reduced the volume of output sales or planned a significant proportion of the increase in output to take place in the second half-year. In other words, this is a repetition of the picture where enterprises have no great difficulty in fulfilling the plans for the first quarters of the year and receive impressive bonuses, yet the annual plan is in danger of being wrecked. In 2 years the volume of output at the enterprises checked increased by 7.3 percent, while the payment of bonuses and rewards increased by 31.5 percent, totaling more than R67 million. The abnormality of this situation is obvious.

The committee reported the results of the check and the causes of the shortcomings revealed to the USSR Council of Ministers. As you know, principled conclusions were drawn on the work of the Ministry of the Electrical Equipment Industry.

However, it must be said frankly that the all-union committee and the local people's control organs often still disregard instances of failure to meet plans and deliveries of output under contracts, and do not show due exactingness toward the culprits for the damage done to the state. There are still not enough constructive proposals being made on the basis of the results of checks to improve the sectors' work and the management apparatus. We see this, and we are taking steps to increase the activeness of people's control in the struggle to strengthen plan and contractual discipline.

The CPSU Central Committee requires people's control organs carrying out checks on the fulfillment of state plans and targets to come out with the utmost resolution against instances of overreporting or any attempts to deceive the state. In the period under review many instances of falsification of reports on the production of output, the commissioning of projects, and the shipment of freight were uncovered and forestalled. The committees instituted proceedings against more than 100,000 officials for these gross violations of state discipline.

Unfortunately, even today the leaders of many enterprises and organizations resort to overreporting and deception in order to conceal failures in work and create the appearance that all is well. Checks show that one of the main reasons why these antistate actions are widespread and tenacious is that leading workers at ministries and other economic organs by no means always take strict steps to cut them short. Worse, they often connive to falsify accounts for the sake of narrow departmental and often self-seeking interests.

This was revealed quite clearly, for instance, in a check on the reliability of data on railroad freight shipments. It is well known that as a result of measures adopted by the CPSU Central Committee and the government the work of railroad transport has improved recently. But against this background of changes for the better, all the more indignation is aroused by cases where many railroad workers, in order to embellish the situation, themselves indulge in deception and force others to engage in overreporting.

On 7 of the 11 railroads checked--the Gorkiy, Lvov, Moscow, Dnepr, Northern, North Caucasus, and South Urals railroads--last year there was overreporting to the tune of nearly 7 million metric tons of freight in the reports on the volume of shipments, which enabled them to report overfulfillment of the plan. There have been numerous instances of overreporting on the railroads this year too, and not only in freight shipments. Even before this the committee has repeatedly drawn the ministry's attention to overreporting. But the Ministry of Railways leadership confined itself to half-measures and not infrequently supported the railroad leaders, who shift the blame for overreporting to the freight dispatchers or who adduce other reasons. On the basis of the committee's report the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium severely punished First Deputy Minister Comrade Ginko. By order of the minister, a number of railroad chiefs and leading workers in the ministry apparatus were called to account for window dressing, and many leaders of railroad line subunits were relieved of their posts.

Many instances of deception of the state were also revealed at enterprises and organizations of the Ministry of Power Machine Building, the Ministry of Construction, Road, and Municipal Machine Building, the Ministry of Mineral Fertilizer Production, the Ministry of the Petroleum Industry, the Ministry of Machine Building for Livestock Raising and Feed Production, and the construction ministries.

Now that the party has raised so acutely the question of the impermissibility in any circumstances of doing things for show, the committee will deal much more strictly with those who are trying to deceive the state even in the conditions of restructuring, will collaborate widely with organs of the prosecutor's office to stop window dressing, and will use the full force of

the law in the struggle against this dangerous social evil. In view of the importance of the tasks set by the party in accelerating scientific and technical progress and modernizing all sectors of the national economy, the work of the committee and our local organs to monitor these matters is being restructured. We see it as our duty not only to act more boldly to expose the sectors where laggardness and stagnation originate, where conservatism prevails in the development and assimilation of new machinery and technology, and where substantial funds are spent without producing the necessary return, but also to exert a real influence to improve matters.

The Ministry of the Automotive Industry and the planning organs, a check by the committee revealed, have delayed for almost 10 years in organizing the production of bearings with a frictionless filler, which ensure high reliability and breakdown-free running of machines in difficult operating conditions. This impermissible red tape was spoken of at the party congress. Yet as a result of the measures taken after the check, it took only a very short time to rectify the matter substantially. By the end of this year 500,000 bearings of this kind will have been manufactured, which is 5 times more than last year.

Technical progress is still not infrequently delayed because of lack of coordination among sectors in resolving the tasks set. Great savings, for instance, are inherent in the wide application of powder metals in the national economy. In accordance with Central Committee instructions, over a number of years the committee has been monitoring the fulfillment of targets in the development of powder metallurgy. In the last 5-year plan alone, the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy and the Ministry of Nonferrous Metallurgy channeled more than R150 million into this area, which made it possible almost to double powder production capacities.

However, the machine building ministries proved unprepared for the use of this quantity of powders. As a result the capacities created to produce them are far from fully utilized. It is above all the Gosplan and the ministries which are to blame for this miscalculation. But we cannot escape responsibility ourselves, since monitoring was not comprehensive and did not take account of the subsequent utilization of the powders.

In the period under review the committee checked the situation at many of the most important construction sites in the fuel and power complex, machine building, metallurgy, chemicals, and light industry. The measures adopted on the basis of the results of the checks helped to improve matters at the construction sites and promoted the commissioning of projects.

Now that the emphasis in investment policy is shifting to the accelerated renewal of fixed capital, the committee is taking steps to greatly intensify monitoring of the fulfillment of party directives on the concentration of material, financial, and manpower resources on the modernization and retooling of production. The following example will show how necessary this is. During a recent check on the work of the USSR Ministry of the Coal Industry to modernize mines and opencuts in the Kuzbass, it emerged that out of the R786 million allocated for developing the basin this year, the ministry, contrary to the

instructions of directive organs, planned to use only R65 million for modernization. It is not surprising that at many mines modernization has been in progress for decades.

And this is what it leads to. During the modernization of the Berezovskaya mine, which has been dragging on for 11 years now, coal stocks in the mine's field have been almost entirely worked out on the basis of temporary plans. And now, for an outlay of R57 million on modernization, the mine will be able to increase coal extraction by only 100,000 metric tons, instead of the planned 900,000 tons.

The leading workers in the ministry and its subunits who permitted this approach, which does not consider the state's interests, have been called to account. In accordance with the congress instructions, the committee will continue to deal strictly with leaders who take halfhearted decisions instead of getting down to the crux of the matter and distort the very idea of modernization.

In the period under review, in monitoring the sphere of scientific and technical progress, the committee studied the activity of many scientific research and planning and design organizations. A significant proportion of these, as the checks showed, are operating at a low standard of efficiency, and sometimes running idle.

For 10 years, for instance, the Ministry of Chemical and Petroleum Machine Building All-Union Scientific Research Institute for Comprehensive Manufacturing Lines has in effect not fulfilled the functions of either a scientific or a design organization, although several hundred scientific staffers worked there. And basically the Ministry of the Chemical Industry All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Composite Materials produced no results in 5 years, with its work efficiency amounting to only 4 kopeks per ruble spent. The activity of the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control Scientific Research Institute Making was also virtually fruitless.

On the basis of materials from checks, the USSR Council of Ministers abolished the All-Union Scientific Research and Design Institute for Comprehensive Manufacturing Lines. The institute of the State Committee for Hydrometeorology was handed over to the Ministry of Instrument Making, Automation Equipment, and Control Systems and incorporated in one of its science and production associations. The Scientific Research Institute of Composite Materials was given a year in which to radically restructure its work. This government decision should serve as a serious warning to other scientific research organizations, as well as the ministries and departments under whose jurisdiction they fall.

In the period under review the committee attached great significance to monitoring the fulfillment by ministries and enterprises of party and state demands for the acute, urgent problem of the quality of output and of work in general. Checks show that in many sectors the struggle for quality has not yet become the priority. A significant proportion of articles not only have a low technical standard but--and this is particularly intolerable--are manufactured carelessly and sometimes actually produced in shoddy condition. Sometimes this even applies to products with the Seal of Quality.

For instance, in the course of a check on tractors from the Kharkov plant it emerged that in the course of last year and the first quarter of this year nearly 14 percent of the machines produced during that period broke down while under guarantee. In the course of tests on a consignment of T-150K tractors received by the Technical Monitoring Department, it emerged that not one of them met the technical conditions. As a result of the check the tractor was stripped of the Seal of Quality. The same decision was taken with regard to 79 out of 90 models of machines, machine tools, and equipments which were tested, produced by enterprises under 8 ministries. They include compressors from Moscow's Borets plant, machine tools from the Tbilisi and Yerevan plants, lift trucks from the Lvov plant, excavators from the Kiev plant, and feed harvesting combines from the Gomel plant.

On the basis of the committee's report, the USSR Council of Ministers defined measures to impose state order in assessing output quality and ensure strict compliance with certification requirements.

The quality of construction work, especially housing and civic construction, needs to be radically improved. Matters have gone so far that in certain oblasts they included in their commissioning reports apartment blocks and social, cultural, and consumer facilities where work on installing floors, internal decoration, and plumbing installations had not even been completed. And leaders of local organs not infrequently forced the acceptance of unfinished projects. On the basis of the results of checks carried out by the committee on the quality and acceptance of housing, strict decisions were taken by party and soviet organs in Moscow City, Moscow, Kalinin, Kirov, and Saratov Oblasts, the Bashkir and Tatar ASSR's, and the Georgian SSR. Unfortunately, violations of the procedure for accepting projects for commissioning are occurring even now in many places. In Tambov Oblast, in the first half of the year, one-third of the housing was accepted with major defects. And in every case the state acceptance commissions were headed by ispolkom leaders. In Alma-ata, in June-August, the commission headed by Alatau'skiy Rayispolkom's deputy chairman accepted 26 apartment blocks which had no gas and in many of which the elevators did not work, there was no lighting, and there was no water supply. Such cases have also been uncovered in Krasnoyarsk Kray, Novgorod, Nikolayev, Vitebsk, and Pavlodar Oblasts, and the Moldavian SSR.

The committee is taking steps to ensure that every people's control component takes a far more active part in the struggle for quality. Of course, the most important thing here is not the quantity of checks, but that in any instance of shoddy work the committees and groups should act uncompromisingly toward those who are to blame, and that nobody should get away with unconscientious work.

Monitoring work is under way in many areas in the agroindustrial complex. Some 2.6 million people's controllers have been elected on kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and other agricultural enterprises alone, and through their influence on strengthening discipline they give considerable assistance to the party organizations and soviets in boosting agricultural production and fulfilling the Food Program.

In carrying out monitoring, the committee and its local organs are guided by the Central Committee and government demands on ensuring that the production potential created in agriculture yields the biggest possible return. In this respect there were extensive checks on land reclamation operations, the utilization of reclaimed land, and the storage and use of mineral fertilizers. In 14 oblasts, krays, and autonomous republics the assimilation of intensive techniques was checked, while in 11 the introduction of the collective contract on kolkhozes and sovkhozes was checked.

A considerable place in monitoring work is also occupied by questions of the storage and utilization of machinery in agriculture. Deliveries of machinery are growing, and the machines are more complex and productive. At the same time a significant proportion of machines and equipment stand idle because of poor quality maintenance and technical servicing. In many cases costly machinery is badly stored, has essential parts removed, and is written off prematurely. For example, in the USSR Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources organizations which were checked, in 2 years, 465 trucks, tractors, excavators, and other machines had essential parts removed, and more than 1,100 were prematurely written off.

One of the most important areas of activity for the committee and all people's control organs was and is the struggle against thriftlessness and extravagance and for the observance of the policy of savings and thrift. There are examples of fruitful work in this area everywhere. At many enterprises and construction sites people's controllers, acting together with trade union and Komsomol activists, make a real contribution to the cause of saving metals, electricity, and fuel and actively oppose the squandering of resources.

Unfortunately, more cases of a different kind are encountered, where groups and even committees ignore the extravagant expenditure of raw and other materials and fail to take measures to impose order concerning the safekeeping of material assets and deal properly with people specifically guilty of thriftlessness.

It must be said that many leaders of enterprises and ministries have not come to terms with the party's demands to strengthen the thrift policy. Above all, there has not been a radical improvement in norm-setting and accounting of material resources. Not infrequently, norms are deliberately exaggerated, and there is a lack of elementary order in accounting.

In the period under review selective checks--and these applied only to the 1 in 10 enterprises where an inventory of resources was drawn up--revealed more than 350,000 metric tons of metal and pipes, 38,000 km of cable, and nearly R500 million worth of equipment which had been concealed from the accounts. Thus many enterprises, taking advantage of the lack of monitoring by ministries and territorial Gosplan organs, accumulate considerable surpluses of resources, which enables them to cover up for thriftlessness or report imaginary savings.

As checks reveal, there have not yet been the necessary changes in ensuring the preservation of agricultural products. This year, for instance, despite the acute shortage of storage facilities in many places, the check which we carried out in 20 oblasts, krays, and republics on the Central Committee's instructions

revealed that more than half of the new storehouses had not been commissioned by the time the vegetables were being laid in, while the existing storehouses had not been prepared in time.

People's control organs have recently markedly expanded the range of questions concerning the implementation of monitoring in the social sphere. It is well known, for instance, how urgent is the question of supplying the market fully with quality goods. Many examples of good quality, good looking clothing and footwear are shown at exhibitions and fairs. But you often cannot find them in the stores. Because of miscalculations in production planning, first one, then another type of simple but popular goods often disappears from the stores.

In a number of republics the committee checked the situation with children's goods. It transpired that the leaders of many sewn goods and footwear enterprises regarded goods for children as unadvantageous because they are cheaper, and systematically sought to amend plans for their production downward. Mainly for this reason, in the last 5-year plan the production of the main types of children's clothing not only failed to increase, but actually fell. As a result of measures adopted by party and soviet organs and the USSR Ministry of Light Industry, this year the production of children's goods has increased substantially, although demand for them is still far from being fully satisfied. Nearly 20 million more pairs of shoes, for instance, have been produced compared with last year, and 16 million more items of outer clothing.

Certain leaders of the USSR Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy and its enterprises producing enamelware fail to reckon sufficiently with the population's interests. On the basis of the results of checks the ministry has repeatedly been seriously criticized, but there have not yet been any substantial changes. Plans for enamelware production are still fulfilled mainly by means of producing the more costly, larger articles. Despite spending considerable resources on creating capacities for enamelware production, the ministry's enterprises last year produced 37 million fewer items than 10 years ago. Deputy Minister Comrade Kugushin, who is responsible for this sector of work, has been called strictly to account for this lack of discipline.

The committee checked and adopted measures on the fulfillment of targets for the production of consumer goods and the expansion of the range of such goods at other ministries' enterprises too. However, it must be acknowledged that in the light of the tasks of the comprehensive program for the development of production of these goods, we are clearly not doing enough here and are not always seeking to ensure the fuller utilization of reserves to increase their output and improve their quality.

This is also a fair assessment with regard to our work in monitoring the sphere of services to the population. People's control organs have carried out many checks in trade, public catering, and consumer services. In line with Central Committee and government instructions, the committee carried out mass checks on grain expenditure, compliance with the procedure for the sale of

alcohol products, and the organization of the trade in construction materials. In more than 100 major industrial centers the work schedule of enterprises and institutions providing services to the population was checked. Many workers in the service sphere were called to account for violations and abuses, while some were removed from their posts.

However, the situation in this sphere is still causing legitimate dissatisfaction among Soviet people. And it is not only a matter of the shortage of goods and types of services. The greatest indignation is caused by instances of a disrespectful attitude toward people, instances of deceiving them, and cases of embezzlement and squandering. This gives rise to the urgent need to step up monitoring in the service sphere at all levels and to ensure closer collaboration among law enforcement organs, people's control organs, and public organizations in this respect.

At the same time, I think you will agree that the matter cannot be remedied through monitoring alone. What is needed above all is more resolute actions on these matters by the USSR Ministry of Trade, the Tsentrosoyuz, the republican consumer services ministries, and local organs of management in this sphere. As yet they still frequently show tolerance toward major shortcomings in the organization of services to the population and take an unprincipled position with regard to workers committing violations and abuses.

This is what emerged, for instance, at a recent check on the RSFSR Ministry of Consumer Services. Many of its organizations and enterprises have basically distorted and turned to their own advantage even that progressive form of services to the population, subscription contract servicing of televisions, refrigerators, and other equipment. While not fulfilling their commitments under contracts, nonetheless they receive subscription payments regularly and in full from the population. This gives them a trouble-free life and allows them to report plan fulfillment and even receive bonuses. The ministry leaders and Minister Comrade Dudenkov knew about this, but had taken no steps prior to the examination of the results of the check.

In accordance with the party's demands for strict compliance with the principle of social justice and the stepping up of the struggle against unearned income, committees and groups have begun to devote more attention to monitoring the correct expenditure of the wage fund, material incentive funds, and the distribution of other benefits. In conjunction with the AUCCTU, for instance, compliance with legislation on the acute social question of the accounting and distribution of housing was checked in 22 oblasts and republics. Enterprise leaders and ispolkom workers who committed gross violations and abuses in this matter were punished. A considerable volume of the work of the committee and our local organs also involves monitoring in such important spheres of social life as health care, culture, and education.

Fulfilling the Supreme Soviet's instructions, the committee monitored compliance with legislation on nature conservation. Checks show that in a number of regions, because of a departmental approach and lack of discipline, decisions on stopping pollution of the atmosphere and water sources are not being fully implemented. In conjunction with the prosecutor's office, we will step up exactingness toward economic leaders through whose fault nature conservation measures are thwarted.

In strengthening discipline and order and cutting short various kinds of violations the committee attaches great significance to work with the working people's statements and complaints. In 2 and 1/2 years 84,000 people have sent written statements to the USSR People's Control Committee or called there in person, while for all the committees the figure is more than 1.5 million. Many letters formed the basis for in-depth checks and principled conclusions.

In accordance with the Law on People's Control, the committee also systematically checked on work with letters and complaints at ministries, departments, enterprises, and organizations, and adopted measures to eliminate the shortcomings revealed.

Checks show that in the work of the management apparatus there is still much red tape, bureaucracy, and impracticality. Instead of exercising flexible leadership and organizing matters in the localities, the apparatus is still not infrequently engaged in drawing up various prescriptions and instructions and collecting large quantities of often unnecessary information. As you know, the CPSU Central Committee has forbidden ministries, departments, and local organs to request from ministries and organizations data not required by state accounts. We checked on how the Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building is fulfilling this demand. It turned out that not only have they failed to abolish unlawful accounting, they have actually introduced another 40 new types of such accounting. As a result enterprises were forced to submit additional reports on 159 forms containing more than 100,000 indicators a year. Some 1,200 people were employed in drawing up these accounts in the sector, with an annual wage fund of around R2 million.

For violations of discipline and for imposing unlawful accounting, the committee brought the ministry's guilty leaders to disciplinary and material account. By order of the minister, all the unlawful accounting has been abolished. We consider it necessary to report that the committee and republican and local organs of people's control, in line with the instructions of the April Central Committee plenum, have stepped up exactingness toward leaders who do not fulfill party and state directives. In the period under review committees were forced to remove more than 13,000 officials from their posts for indiscipline, irresponsibility and extravagance, or abuses of official position. A total of R44 million was recovered to make good the damage done to the state. Materials from 17,000 checks were sent to the prosecutor's office organs for investigation and for criminal proceedings to be instituted against the culprits.

On the basis of the results of checks by the USSR People's Control Committee, a number of leadership workers at ministries, departments, enterprises, and organizations have been called to account by the CPSU Central Committee Party Control Committee and local party organs.

In order to step up the effectiveness of control and prevent shortcomings, measures of social influence and openness have begun to be used more widely with regard to the culprits. On the basis of the committees' decisions, the misdemeanors of more than 180,000 officials have been discussed in the labor collectives. The newspapers PRAVDA and IZVESTIYA and other central and local

organs of the press, radio, and television do much to increase the openness of people's control, although the potential here is by no means exhausted.

I would also like to touch on the following question. In the new economic management conditions, where the autonomy and initiative of enterprises and organizations are greatly increased, there is a pressing need to impose order in departmental and interdepartmental control and increase its effectiveness. It is through this control, whose functions are carried out by several hundred thousand people, that the vast majority of checks and audits are carried out, diverting a large number of people from their work and often failing to yield the necessary benefit. Investigation shows that many of these checks are carried out not so much because a need has arisen as for formal reasons, because of obsolete normative documents which often duplicate each other.

With a view to ensuring better organization in implementing control, in many republics and oblasts measures are being adopted to ensure that checks carried out by party, soviet, trade union, and Komsomol organs and people's control committees are coordinated by party committees, while checks carried out through organs of interdepartmental control and economic management are coordinated by the republican Councils of Ministers and soviet ispolkoms. In the interests of the cause, it is also necessary to ensure that in the planning and implementation of checks, particularly on matters of finance, prices, the utilization of material resources, and environmental conservation, the central organs of interdepartmental control collaborate better with each other.

Departmental control requires a major restructuring. Its weakness is one of the main reasons for laxity and thriftlessness. Here it is the leaders of ministries and economic organs who are to blame first and foremost. Being reluctant to expose shortcomings, many of them do not really demand a truthful assessment of the situation from their controllers. It is no accident that departmental auditors often ignore violations even when they are visible, as the saying goes, to the naked eye. This situation can only be changed on one condition--that the top leaders of ministries and economic organs really bear full personal responsibility for uncompromising, fruitful departmental control. The committee takes some of the blame itself here, since not enough attention has yet been devoted to organizing departmental control and increasing its effectiveness.

Comrade deputies!

The major, responsible tasks arising from the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and Central Committee plenums for people's control require that the USSR People's Control Committee and all its local organs significantly improve the organization of their work, persistently improve its style and methods, self-critically evaluate results, and maintain full awareness of the measure of their responsibility for the general state of affairs.

This applies especially to committees, groups, and posts in the production collectives, institutions, and organizations. The effectiveness of people's control and its preventive nature depend largely on how they work and what

position they adopt in the struggle against shortcomings. Unfortunately, a significant proportion of them are not yet displaying the necessary activeness, are ignoring pressing questions, and make poor use of their rights in the struggle against violators of discipline and order, shoddy workers, and embezzlers of the people's property. It was for this that many committees, groups, and people's controllers were criticized keenly in the course of the reports and elections.

The activeness and militancy of groups and posts depends, of course, first and foremost on themselves, on who is elected and how he fulfills his duties. But considerable significance is also attached to prompt, businesslike support for their work and the resolute suppression of instances of persecution of people's controllers for their public activity. And such instances are still encountered, not all that infrequently.

Cases of opposition to people's controllers and of their being persecuted for fulfilling their public duties have occurred recently in the Dagestan and Karelian ASSR's and Rostov, Smolensk, Tyumen, Chelyabinsk, Odessa, and other oblasts. The guilty leaders were severely punished on the basis of the results of checks by the all-union committee and local party organs. We continue to count on the help of party and soviet organs in eliminating such cases.

The leadership of the party and the soviets is the strength of the people's control and the guarantee of success in its activity. Party committees and soviets of people's deputies constantly study the practical activity of people's control organs, set them concrete tasks, show concern for reinforcing them with cadres, and display high exactingness toward them. The vast majority of committee and group chairmen are elected to the leading party organs, and many are ispolkom members.

Particularly great significance for the people's control organs is attached to the regular examination of their work in the party organizations, at party committee bureaus and plenums, and at soviet sessions. Critical examination of the activity of groups and committees helps to improve the organization of people's control and increase its effectiveness.

That is how we regard the discussion of our work at this session too. The resolution adopted by the USSR Supreme Soviet on the committee's report will be a document of great mobilizing force for all people's control organs in their work to implement the historic decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress.

Permit me, comrade deputies, from this high platform to assure the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet, and the Soviet government that people's control workers and activists, aware of their responsibility to the party and people, will do everything possible to cope honorably with the tasks set. (Applause)

/8309

CSO: 1830/166

PARTY AND STATE AFFAIRS

YELTSIN ADDRESSES ZIL KOMSOMOL MEETING

PM101229 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 30 Nov 86 pp 1, 2

[Unattributed report: "Young People: Redoubling Efforts and Energy. From the Likhachev Motor Vehicle Plant Komsomol Report and Election Conference"]

[Excerpts] The Likhachev Motor Vehicle Plant (ZIL) is the standard-bearer of Soviet industry. And its very large Komsomol organization can be considered the standard-bearer of Moscow's Komsomol. The Leninist test [zachet], sociopolitical certification, the organization of young people's scientific and technical creativity, and many other interesting initiatives which evoked a response and found support throughout the country originated here at ZIL. However, increasingly often people speak about all this in the past tense. Why have ZIL's Komsomol members now slackened the pace? How can their influence on the acceleration of restructuring be stepped up?

These questions were discussed yesterday at the ZIL Komsomol report and election conference. This conference was a most important event in the life not only of the Komsomol organization but of the entire enterprise collective, because one ZIL worker in every three is a Komsomol member.

The conference was addressed by B.N. Yeltsin, first secretary of Moscow CPSU Gorkom.

The speeches of the conference delegates cogently showed their firm determination to ensure the further democratization of the plant Komsomol's activity and to cleanse it of formalism and red tape.

In his speech to the conference B.N. Yeltsin, first secretary of Moscow CPSU Gorkom, noted that the ZIL Komsomol organization has tried to achieve a breakthrough in this direction. The proof of that is today's conference and its critical mood. Young men and women have felt that they can speak out and give their opinion very candidly.

There is no need to fear criticism or to consider it a bugbear to shy away from, B.N. Yeltsin stressed. Nor is there any need to fear "hysterical" foreigners who write about negative phenomena in our reality, speculate on this, and throw in our faces the shortcomings about which we ourselves

speak openly. So should we worry about them, should we fall in line with them? No, it is better that we ourselves look really critically at everything that has gone wrong here. And of course, that applies not only to ZIL's Komsomol members but to the plant's party organization as well.

Restructuring for the ZIL collective has clear, precise outlines. It means the determined acceleration of reconstruction and retooling with no interruption to production. It means the association's transfer to self-capitalization and complete financial autonomy. It means drastically improving output quality. It means a fundamental breakthrough in work to improve workers' social and consumer service conditions. And all this must be done in a short period.

The plant's Komsomol must accurately determine its place in this great work. It must consider day-to-day restructuring and everyone must understand the final goal and ways of attaining it. The solution of this task must also be the main result of today's conference.

The good things that have been done belong to you, to all of us. ZIL is a major collective, a plant without equal in our country. It is our national asset. A great deal can be said about what is really good, what has really been done, and the direct part that the Komsomol has played and continues to play in it. But if we evaluate our work according to the old methods, we shall gain nothing. We must abandon cliches, stereotypes, instructions, and directives, and that applies above all to the Komsomol.

In an atmosphere in which a colossal renewal is under way in society, when truly revolutionary processes are taking place, and when revolutionary actions are needed, to say that restructuring is going smoothly would be the greatest error, just a routine report, and backsliding into old ways.

Just look at how much stage management there is in the Komsomol. It has reached the point where if you want to address a conference you have to send a note to the presidium, other wise they will not give you the floor. The speakers are decided in advance, everyone is properly coached, and you can rest assured that the speaker will say what needs to be said. And indeed he will, of course, but whose thoughts and concerns will he be expressing whose language will he be using? That is the main question.

The ZIL Komsomol, B.N. Yeltsin went on to say, is somewhat stronger than many other Komsomol organizations. But what we need now is for the Komsomol, and not just the ZIL Komsomol, to abandon the old ways and to assume responsibility for its assigned task, for discipline, order, and the organization of young people's leisure. The Komsomol and the administration must not pin the blame on one another. They should not go looking for culprits but make joint efforts and solve problems. The Komsomol must not work in a stereotyped way. The ZIL Komsomol organization must set an example here.

Manpower is a special problem for your collective. ZIL is the largest recruiter of staff from outside the city -- 5,000 people a year. From next year that figure will be zero. That is the gorkom plenum's decision. There will be no turning back. How is the plant Komsomol preparing for this? There was an analysis. It was amazing. This problem was overlooked. But concrete actions and results are needed.

B.N. Yeltsin drew attention to another important question -- competition and the Komsomol. Just look at how overformalized competition is here! The shops take turns at winning first place. There is no system of objective assessment or publicity. And on some questions the plant Komsomol even surpassed the trade union in terms of the level of bureaucracy. The ZIL Komsomol organizations' pledges include the following item: to hold a monthly Komsomol meeting. Does the Komsomol live now without anguish, concern, pride, ultimately without the desire to take a gulp of fresh air, to break out of the prison of paperwork and bureaucracy and the web of instructions? The ZIL Komsomol committee has become too deeply attached to stereotypes and sometimes lacks courage. As Komsomol members and ZIL workers themselves say, even the word "quagmire" does not characterize completely accurately the work style of some of the plant's Komsomol organizations. This is no longer a quagmire but a rotted layer, a layer of peat containing no living organisms. That is how they assess the work of their own Komsomol.

The party gorkom pins great hopes on young people. We need a powerful cadre breakthrough now. We need 500-700 energetic young organizers who could break the vicious circle of nomenklatura [party vetting of appointments] and, shouldering the whole burden of the accumulated problems themselves, organize and radically improve matters in all spheres of the city economy, and renew all life.

I know that in your plant a good system has evolved for training production organizers from among Komsomol members and young people. I hope that the ZIL collective can put forward 15-20 talented young people capable of resolving the city's problems.

Each year the ZIL Komsomol puts forward initiatives. There are five or six in a year. And the Komsomol Korkom judges the work of organizations according to the number of initiatives. So compared with a hairdressing salon which only puts forward one initiative, ZIL is ahead, of course! This approach itself is misguided!

ZIL is switching to the system of state acceptance of output. It is a painful and difficult transition, as for other enterprises. This is not an easy question. A question of state importance, as M.S. Gorbachev said. The CPSU Central Committee recently held a conference on this theme, as you know.

But has there been even a single occasion when equipment producing shoddy goods has been renewed at the Komsomol's request? Or when the Komsomol has summoned the general director to the shop and stated: We will not permit the production of shoddy output. There have been no such occasions. Where are the Komsomol's eyes and will?

B.N. Yeltsin paid particular attention to the development of the plant's social sphere and the improvements of ZIL workers' consumer service conditions. The real way to resolve this problem is to create young people's housing complexes. The country has good experience of this and the construction of such complexes is developing in Moscow, too. But not at ZIL. Here they just talk. Even competition for the right to be members of a complex has not been organized. Despite the fact that back in January we negotiated with general director Ye.a. Brakov for the creation of a young people's housing complex at ZIL. Much has been said during the year but nothing has been done yet.

Hostels remain a dead zone and it is forever the quiet, sleepy season in red corners. The tendency to regard hostels merely as dormitories has become deep-rooted in too many leaders, including Komsomol leaders. A shop leader's visit to a hostel is a big event. Only 4 percent of young people, mainly the aktiv, frequent special interest clubs in hostels. What about the rest? Do they have no interests? That can hardly be true. It is rather that the special interest clubs are not interesting.

[At this point KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA for 30 November incorporates in what is otherwise a shorter report on Yeltsin's speech on pages 1 and 2 the following additional paragraph: "The ZIL workers have fallen behind in organizing young people's leisure. The plant still does not even have its own cafe for young people. Even though they already exist in Moscow. The Komsomol together with the administration and the trade unions must rectify matters here urgently."]

Young people's problems are concerns not just for the Komsomol. However, not all Komsomol, party, or economic leaders have addressed young people's problems. Here again, on paper at least, a plant council for youth affairs has been set up, headed by the general director. Are there many among us, Comrade Delegates, who have heard of this council or its work?... People haven't been lazy, they've worked it out -- the average age of the council members is 50! As for young people on the council -- there is just one Komsomol committee secretary. What does this council care about young people's problems?

The acceptance of young people's instructions at enterprises and shops must become the rule, the law. The involvement of the Komsomol committee in the leadership of the enterprise must really be guaranteed. Young people, by their very nature, react more keenly to shortcomings, they have great restructuring potential. All that is necessary is to use this potential effectively.

The party committee must also change its approaches to the leadership of the Komsomol organization. If young Communists are assigned to work in the Komsomol, this should be no merely with the aim of increasing the party element in the Komsomol but to give constant assistance to Komsomol organizations in developing their initiative and independence.

In conclusion B.N. Yeltsin noted that the conference had been interesting and militant. The party has faith in the strength of the Komsomol and in young people. The main point is to ensure that at the next report and election conference in 2 years' time you can say: In the past 2 years we have done all that we struggled to do and triumphed!

CULTURE

SOVIET CULTURE FOUNDATION LEADING BODIES NAMED

PM281540 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Nov 86 p 2

[Unattributed, untitled listing of composition of leading bodies of Soviet Culture Foundation elected at 12 November Founding Conference in Moscow]

[Text] Board of the Soviet Culture Foundation

Ch.t. Aytmatov, A.G. Aleksin, A.T. Alimzhanov, I.A. Antonova, M.K. Sayalinov, A.A. Belyayev, I.T. Bogdesko, Yu.v. Bondarev, S.F. Bondarchuk, G.A. Borovik, T.P. Buachidze, I.B. Bugayev, A.N. Vanitskiy, I.N. Voskresenskiy, N.V. Garetovskiy, I.S. Glazunov, R.M. Gorbacheva, L.S. Demin, A.N. Demchenko, Yu.a. Zhdanov, V.A. Zhitenev, I.S. Zilbershteyn, I.A. Zubkov, L.G. Zykina, Ye.v. Ivanov, L.F. Illichev, V.I. Kazenin, B.R. Kariyeva, V.V. Karpov, Yu.yu. Kakhk, L.YE. Kerbel, I.N. Klychev, V.A. Korotich, F.F. Kuznetsov, A.M. Leskov, M. Liyepa, I.N. Lisakovskiy, A.A. Likhanov, D.S. Likhachev, D.F. Mamleyev, N.P. Mashchenko, Yu.s. Melentyev, N.S. Mikhalkov, V.N. Minin, V.M. Mishin, A.a. Mylnikov, G.V. Myasnikov, Ye.ye. Nesterenko, N.KH. Nurdzhanov, B.I. Oleynik, A.G. Orlov, N.A. Pankov, G.A. Panfilov, A.N. Pakhmutova, Pitirim, R.V. Pauls, V.M. Peskov, M.M. Plisetskaya, V.I. Popov, G.P. Popov, V.G. Rasputin, S.T. Rikhter, B.A. Tybakov, G.A. Sazontov, T.T. Salakhov, Ye.f. Svetlanov, Yu.s. Semenov, Z.YA. Skuin, Yu.m. Solomin, V.V. Tretyakov, B.S. Ugarov, K.B. Udumyan, V.M. Falin, V.I. Fedosov, G.S. Khandzhyan, A.B. Chakovskiy, P.I. Shabanov, V.G. Shashkin, S.O. Schmidt, S.G. Shuvalov, V.I. Yudin, S.V. Yamshchikov, I.S. Yarutyavichus.

At the first session of the Soviet Culture Foundation Board, the presidium of the Soviet Culture Foundation board was elected, consisting of 11 people. Academician D.S. Likhachev was elected chairman of the board, and G.V. Myasnikov first deputy chairman.

Presidium of the Soviet Culture Foundation Board

D.S. Likhachev, Yu.V. Bondarev, R.M. Gorbachava, I.S. Zilbershteyn, G.V. Myasnikov, Ye.ye. Nesterenko, B.I. Oleynik, V.I. Popov, B.S. Ugarov, V.M. Falin, S.V. Yamshchikov.

Council of Founder Members of the Soviet Culture Foundation

E.A. Abasova, S.F. Abdullayev, A.N. Aksenov, V.V. Aksenov, M.N. Alekseyev, M.K. Anikushin, S.S. Arevshatyan, I.K. Arkhipova, V.G. Afanasyev, N.D. Basov, A.V. Batalov, F.M. Vaganov, Yu.n. Verchenko, A.A. Voznesenskiy, N.B. Volkova, M.A. Voronkova, I.I. Geleyn, D. Granin, Yu.n. Grigorovich, G.G. Grigoryan, V.V. Goryainov, I.YE. Danilova, A.P. Derevyanko, Yu.v. Drunina, A.S. Dubnovskiy, P.YE. Yellyyev, V.I. Yemelyanov, O.N. Yefremov, V.N. Zaytsev, V.V. Zaramenskikh, I.A. Zarin, V.G. Zakharov, A.A. Zolotov, V.A. Ivanov, S.S. Ivanko, Ye.a. Isayev, D.S. Kabalevskiy, M.S. Kapitsa, A.YE. Karpov, N.S. Kartashov, V.B. Kassis, V.S. Kemenov, E.G. Klimov, V.A. Koptug, Yu.k. Korolev, I.A. Kotomkin, Z.M. Kruglova, A.P. Kudryavtsev, V.N. Kudryavtsev, A.T. Kutovoy, K.YU. Lavrov, A.K. Laurinchukas, K.G. Levykin, O.V. Lepeshinskaya, I. Kubilyus, S.A. Lushin, A.M. Maniyezov, G.M. Markov, G.I. Marchuk, V.P. Maslin, V.I. Mironenko, G.A. Mozhayev, K.M. Moldobasanov, L.G. Mursa, V.A. Myagkov, I.A. Naumenko, A.I. Novikov, V. F. Ovsyannikov, S.B. Obraztsov, N.I. Paltsev, I.V. Petryanov-sokolov, B.B. Piotrovskiy, A.T. Polyanskiy, N.A. Ponomarev, V.A. Pristupko, G.K. Ratnikova, A.A. Remizov, R.I. Rozhdestvenskiy, G.V. Sviridov, G.N. Seleznev, V.S. Sergutin, V.V. Serov, G.K. Skryabin, G.M. Sudachevskiy, R.R. Sturua, K. T.-B. Telzhanov, V.V. Tereshkova, S.P. Tkachev, M.P. Trunov, L.N. Tyutikov, V.N. Ugayev, M.A. Ulyanov, A.I. Ulyanovich, P.N. Fedoseyev, V.P. Khaamer, T.N. Khrennikov, N.N. Chetverikov, Ye.m. Chekharin, S.A. Shalayev, R.K. Shchedrin, A.P. Shitikov, D.A. Shmarinov, T.G. Shumnaya, G.I. Yanayev, V.L. Yanin.

Auditing Commission of the Soviet Culture Foundation

V.A. Andreyev, N.A. Asharina, D.YU. Banionis, P.N. Barakchi, M.M. Galitskiy, T.G. Grigoryev, V.v. Grigoryan, I.P. Gorin, V.A. Gulyayev, A.F. Dzhindzhaliya, Ya.a. Dripe, M.I. Zvonarev, B.S. Yelepov, B.YE. Yefimov, L.M. Imanov, A.A. Kabanov, A.K. Kadybayev, M.S. Karimov, P.YU. Kiselev, L.K. Korneshov, A.a. Kochetkov, M.F. Kurg, N.P. Lavrova, T.G. Larina, A.S. Leksakov, V.A. Lenyashin, V.P. Lisakovich, M.M. Mabatshoyev, I.YU. Margulova, V.A. Nikoforov, A.G. Novikov, I.YE. Popov, Ye.f. Sopin, B.V. Shinkuba, F.YU. Trusunov, B.T. Tuyakbayeva, R. Yazov.

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CSO: 1800/210

CULTURE

DEMICHEV INAUGURATES SOVIET CULTURAL FOUNDATION

PM241951 Moscow SOVETSKAYA KULTURA in Russian 13 Nov 86 pp 1, 2

[TASS report: "The Riches of the Fatherland's Culture -- For the People. Constituent Conference of the Soviet Cultural Foundation"]

[Text] The fatherland's multinational culture is a treasure house of immortal creations of human genius. Having absorbed the spiritual riches of different eras and peoples, it is a truly unique phenomenon -- the artistic embodiment of the ideals of humanism, good, and justice, a precious fusion of talent and labor.

Today this priceless asset belongs to all Soviet people. The purpose of the Soviet Cultural Foundation is to preserve and augment it and make it an important instrument of civic and patriotic education, of working people's access to constructive creative activity. The Foundation's constituent conference was held on 12 November in the House of Unions Hall of Columns in Moscow.

The presidium comprised Comrades P.N. Demichev, B.N. Yaltsin, A.F. Dobrynin, and M.V. Zimyanin; Yu.p. Voronov and Yu.a. Sklyarov, CPSU Central Committee section chiefs; T.N. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; representatives of party, soviet, and public organizations and labor collectives; and cultural and scientific figures.

P.N. Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Poliburo, first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and chairman of the Foundation organizing committee, delivered a report on the tasks and main avenues of activity of the Soviet Cultural Foundation.

The constituent conference of the Soviet Cultural Foundation, he said, has convened at a time when the Soviet people and the whole of progressive mankind have just celebrated the 69th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. The celebrations were a striking new confirmation of Soviet society's tremendous revolutionary potential, which is embodied in the creative energy of the masses who are implementing the CPSU Central Committee April (1985) Plenum decisions and the 27th Party Congress program guidelines. The restructuring which is under way in our country is a continuation of the cause of October. Today the party is directing the entire potential of socialism toward the acceleration of socioeconomic development.

The human factor is the chief force of acceleration. The establishment of the Soviet Cultural Foundation is a link in the system of major measures intended to stimulate the masses' creative initiative.

Under the influence of the 27th Party Congress, the country's entire life has gathered a special and intensive creative pace. One cannot fail to be inspired by the widespread active processes of democratization in social life and the affirmation of the principles of social justice which encourage a creative approach to the work in hand, daring, initiative, and responsibility.

Profound positive changes are also taking place in the sphere of social self-awareness. Comprehensive explanation of the tasks facing society, a quest for the best ways to resolve them, broad publicity, a revolutionary critical approach, and the creative spirit -- these are the typical aspects of the activity of Lenin's party, its Central Committee, and the CPSU Central Committee Politburo which have a salutary effect on Soviet society's entire spiritual atmosphere.

One of the absolute conditions for successful implementation of the program objectives is to attach priority importance to the development of the social sphere. The party is today bringing to the fore a strong social policy encompassing the whole spectrum of human life -- from working and everyday living conditions, health, and leisure to social-class and national relations.

The enhancement of the social role of culture in communist building is a most important component of this policy. The development of socialist culture and the enrichment of Soviet attitudes to life, against drunkenness, indiscipline, lack of organization, and other negative phenomena are also very important factors in the economic and social development of Soviet society. Now that millions of Soviet people are deliberately opting for a role of cultural institutions in establishing conditions for organizing rewarding recreation for the population, generating a wholesome moral and ethical climate, and affirming the new Soviet traditions.

Man's talent is a genuine cultural asset. Particular importance attaches now to the public's attention to new ideas and discoveries, original scientific and technical solutions, and patriotic initiatives. Everything must be done to stimulate creativity and science and to create favorable conditions for developing the abilities and gifts of the broad masses.

Proper support and assistance, especially for talented young people, has always been necessary, and now it is more necessary than ever. The essence of the party's policy and all its practical activity are oriented toward the discovery of reserves contained in people's activeness and initiative, in their inexhaustible creative abilities and talents. This is the mighty force that must be fully activated.

This will be furthered now by our course of steady development and improvement of Soviet democracy and affirmation of the people's socialist self-management in all spheres of life.

The voluntary initiatives whose objective is to augment Soviet society's cultural potential are an expression of Soviet people's high awareness. This is a new aspect expressing the specific features of the Soviet way of life.

The development of democratic cultural traditions in our multinational country is impossible without the preservation of national cultural heritages. Today solicitousness toward the people's historical memory is manifested largely and primarily in renovation and restoration work. It can be said that the Soviet people have accomplished a feat by restoring historical and cultural monuments destroyed by the fascist hordes in the Leningrad area.

A great deal of work has gone into restoring the centers of the so-called Golden Ring and historic monuments in the Ukraine, Central Asia, Georgia, the Baltic area, and other regions and republics in our country.

Work on the preservation and restoration of cultural assets is undoubtedly being done on a large scale, but the demands it has to meet are immeasurable.

We are the owners of truly colossal riches. In our country there are 250,000 historical and architectural monuments, as well as examples of urban design and construction and monumental art, of which 190,000 have been registered and are protected by law. Despite all the difficulties of postwar development, more than R26 billion in capital investments have been channeled into the cultural sector alone, with R1.5 billion allocated for restoration and maintenance work in the last 15 years.

The years of Soviet power have seen the creation of 1,300 major monuments and memorials of union or republic standing.

The country's museum fund at present holds 48 million items of fine art and decorative and applied arts. The 3,250 state archives store 300 million genuine documents on the history, science, and culture of USSR peoples. At the start of 1986 the stocks held by 326,000 libraries consisted of 5.6 billion books. All this extensive cultural wealth must be sensibly, carefully, and thriftily preserved and utilized in the interests of the people, the speaker emphasized.

One must be grateful to those who speak up in defense of architectural, historical, and cultural relics, who will not tolerate glaring irresponsibility during the restoration of old cities, streets, and squares. The public is quite right to sound the alarm about such famous monuments as Kizhi, the Solovetskiy Monastery, and others. There is a vast amount of restoration work to be done. For instance, renewal and restoration work is needed on more than one-half of the 750 monuments in Yaroslavl Oblast.

This must be seen as one of the main avenues of the Foundation's activity.

The wave of Soviet people's patriotic initiatives is rising ever higher. The report named the enthusiasts who supported the idea of establishing the foundation and displayed great nobility and magnanimity. For example, A.P. Besspalov made a one-time money payment, and expressed readiness to continue to support the foundation financially according to his means. Tajik poet G. Safiyeva decided to use her fees to pay for the building and equipping of a rural library and for stocking it with books, and to give it as a gift to the future republic cultural foundation. There are numerous similar examples. V.A. Aleksandrov and N.N. Shushkina handed over to the Tretyakov Gallery 40 icons of the 15th-17th century period, while F.YE. Vishnevskiy donated 300 works of Western art to the Hermitage and a further 865 paintings to other museums in the country. The A.S. Pushkin State Museum of Fine Art now houses I.S. Zilbershteyn's collection, consisting of more than 2,000 works of Russian and West European fine art, and also 212 works of West European and ancient art from Ye. V. Polosatova's collection. L.F. Ilichev, A.YA. Abramyan, and many others have donated their personal collections to museums.

Our state has also received valuable works of art as gifts from abroad. They were made over the years by the French painter Nadezhda Leger, the famous painter S.N. Rerikh, Shalyapin's son Fedor Fedorovich, U.S. businessman Armand Hammer, and others.

The handing over of privately-owned books to mass public libraries and of personal collections to museums and the involvement of artists and creative workers in setting up people's picture galleries, people's theaters, philharmonic orchestras, and people's universities of culture all helps to consolidate our common cultural potential.

On behalf of the participants in the constituent conference of the Soviet Cultural Foundation, the speaker expressed sincere gratitude to all who, in every possible way, assist in preserving and augmenting our motherland's spiritual wealth.

Soviet culture, he then went on, has always been and still remains profoundly democratic both in content and in the form of its ties with the masses. At all stages -- both in peacetime Komsomol, trade unions, and other organizations whose activity involves the creation and utilization of works of literature and art and cultural and scientific assets.

The creation of the Soviet Cultural Foundation paves new ways for enriching fruitful cultural ties with the socialist countries and for developing international cultural activity and direct contacts with public organizations and representatives of the scientific and creative intelligentsia abroad. Its activity in the international arena will follow the tracks of developing cooperation in the humanitarian sphere, as envisaged by the fundamental principles for the creation of an all-embracing system of international security [not further explained], which offers new opportunities to propagandize the peace-loving policy of Lenin's party and the Soviet state and the ideas of socialism and humanism, the speaker emphasized.

A cultural policy aimed at preserving and augmenting our spiritual wealth cannot fail to fuse with the struggle for peace and the peoples' security. After all, a nuclear catastrophe -- if it were to occur -- would result in the destruction of all contemporary civilization and world culture.

Our time is a time for responsible decisions in international life, which will determine the fate of all mankind and will answer the most dramatic question of the present: Will it be possible to preserve world peace and prevent a nuclear catastrophe. The Soviet Union's stance on key questions concerning the liquidation of nuclear weapons and the strengthening of peace and international security, outlined by M.S. Gorbachev at the Reykjavik meeting, convincingly demonstrated once more the consistent and constructive nature of Soviet foreign policy, which expresses the aspirations of people of good will and accords with the fundamental interests of all peoples. Unfortunately, however, accord was not reached in Iceland because of the U.S. side's desire to attain military superiority and to act from a position of strength in the international arena.

It is difficult to overestimate the role of cultural workers in the struggle for peace and for the creation of a healthy spiritual atmosphere in today's world. Much is being written in the West about the apocalypse, about man's catastrophic degradation, and about the loss of fundamental moral ideas and norms of civilized relations developed over the millennia by democratic culture. Today it is more necessary than ever to actively resist the spiritual standards which modern imperialism tries to implant.

The most reliable "dam" against alien influences is created inside man's spiritual world. This is why it is necessary to inculcate in every person, and in young people in particular, lofty aesthetic and moral standards and the ability to build within themselves a barrier against the loss of ideological commitment, taste, and spiritually.

We look optimistically at the future, the speaker declared. The international atmosphere is changing under the influence of the Soviet Union's example. We hope that the sensible approach will triumph over the desire to dictate terms to the world from positions of strength. Lenin's party will continue to wage a consistent struggle to step up the activity aimed at establishing an atmosphere of trust and mutual understanding among peoples and expanding cooperation for the sake of peace and progress.

Our motherland has entered the 70th year of its socialist era, P.N. Demichev said in conclusion. Lenin's party and the Soviet state are mobilizing the people's energy for the solution of domestic and international tasks which are unparalleled in history in terms of both scale and importance.

The speaker expressed confidence that the creation of the Soviet Cultural Foundation will help to implement the 27th CPSU Congress decisions and the domestic and foreign policy of Lenin's party and will contribute to the further enhancement of our cultural wealth.

USSR Minister of Culture V.G. Zakharov read a report on the draft rules of the Soviet Cultural Foundation.

The broad discussion of the draft rules, he said, was a very important and, obviously, the widest possible form of preparation for setting up a new organization. There has been keen countrywide discussion of the foundation's objectives and tasks at public meetings, in the press, and on radio and television programs. The organizing committee, newspaper editorial offices, and central departments alone received more than 1,500 letters containing comments and proposals by individual citizens concerning the foundation's draft rules and future activity. There was lively and keen discussion of the draft rules at sessions of the secretariats of creative union boards and other public organizations.

It must be mentioned that there was universal approval for the draft's main provisions. The creation of such a social formation as the foundation was perceived by Soviet people as a weighty demonstration of the party's and the state's unflagging concern for preserving and augmenting the people's spiritual wealth and for the further flourishing of socialist culture.

As for the new principled observations and proposals that were made, they were all examined and thoroughly analyzed by the editorial commission and the organizing committee and were taken into account when the final draft of the rules was prepared. Around 80 amendments and additions were introduced in the new edition.

The draft rules retain the actual concept of the foundation as a self-governing organ of the Soviet public, a unique organ which constitutes a creative contribution to the process of restructuring all cultural work.

There was unanimous approval for the foundation's democratic nature as outlined in the rules, for the decisive importance of social principles in its future work, and for its accountability to the public.

Broad and active participation by working people in the work of the Soviet Cultural Foundation and publicity in its work will be ensured by involving the population in open discussion and implementation of its plans, projects, programs, and events, satisfaction of their cultural requirements and interests, an attentive attitude to social initiatives and proposals for improvements in cultural work, and regular provision of information about its activity to the public. Information on the most valuable contributions and donations and the use to which they are put and accounts showing revenue and expenditure are another important element of openness.

The foundation's right to have its own publications, propagandizing its tasks and activity and making it possible to submit any problems awaiting solution for public judgment, is a substantial feature.

Among the foundation's most important tasks the rules list support for fruitful initiatives by working people with respect to the creation of new centers of culture and direct involvement by the foundation in financing the building and consolidating the material and technical base of cultural institutions, primarily in the countryside, in small towns and settlements, and in the vicinity of the most important new construction projects. The foundation's activity must assist in the further development of professional and amateur creative work and of amateur associations and hobby clubs.

This edition of the draft rules, the speaker went on, also lists the basic forms of the foundation's international activity: cooperation with UNESCO, international nongovernmental organizations, and similar foundations, public organizations, and individual citizens abroad. Particular importance attaches to the foundation's role as a link between the Land of the Soviets and our compatriots abroad who are prepared to make contributions and donations to the renewal and restoration of national cultural monuments in the USSR or to return to the motherland relics of our history and culture currently in their possession.

For the first time, the rules of a social formation contain a provision concerning the right to monitor the proper use of money and property granted by state and social enterprises, institutions, and organizations. This provision is aimed primarily as eliminating willful or subjectivist methods in the solution of cultural problems on the part of leaders at local level.

In this way, the establishment of a new-type social organ under the proposed draft rules will be a fundamentally important step in improving the activity of our voluntary societies and will mark the start of the introduction of the social-state principle and management machinery in the cultural sphere -- without, however, duplicating the activity of any existing state or social organizations.

The establishment of the Soviet Cultural Foundation, the speaker said in conclusion, offers new scope for activity to preserve and augment our cultural treasure house. Relying on the Soviet people's material and spiritual support, the foundation will undoubtedly accomplish much in augmenting our cultural heritage and will occupy a fitting position in our multifaceted ideological and educational work.

Those who spoke in the debate talked about the importance of the Soviet Cultural Foundation, which is intended to awaken the masses' creative initiative and help go give working people access to the treasures of our own and the world's culture and the glorious historical and patriotic traditions of the Soviet people.

Numerous telegrams sent to the constituent conference in the Hall of Columns by eminent figures of Soviet culture were read out; their authors notified the conference that they were transferring fees for works of art, performances, or personal savings to the credit of the new social organization. One such message was received from Bulgaria.

The resolution which was adopted emphasizes that the Soviet Cultural Foundation, guided by the Leninist principles of party-mindedness and popular spirit and the 27th CPSU Congress decisions, will fittingly perform its lofty mission for the communist education of the people.

The Rules of the Soviet Cultural Foundation were adopted. Elections were held for its leading organs -- Board, Founders' Council, and Auditing Commission.

CULTURE

VOZNESENSKIY REPLIES TO READERS OF POEM ON GRAVEDIGGERS

Subject of Voznesenskiy Poem Clarified

Moscow SOVETSKAYA KULTURA in Russian 9 Oct 86 p 6

[Article by A. Palm, SOVETSKAYA KULTURA correspondent, Simferopol: "Conscience, Pain, and Hope; A Journalist's Introduction"]

[Text] HOW IT WAS

It is painful and shameful now to remember. How many times have I passed by this sorry, sagging post with traces of its former whitewash? How many times have most of us passed by here? Do all of us know the inscription on it?

Twelve thousand firing squad victims lie along the tenth kilometer of the Simferopol-Feodosiya highway, 12,000 victims of the "Simferopol action" cold-bloodedly planned and executed by the Reich in December 1941.

We should stop and put flowers--even these thorny wildflowers covered with the roadside dust. After all, countless cars pass by here every day.

Why don't we take our foot off the accelerator? Why don't we slow our pace and our step even when it is impossible not to do so?

Only one time, last year, on a clear summer night, my heart felt a vague flutter of alarm. Why did someone in the lonely steppe, far away from the road, quickly turn their headlights off when they saw mine? What shadows lurked hurriedly toward the three "Zhiguli" gathered in a circle, and what were they doing here long after midnight in this deserted silence? I did not believe the rumors told to me by my Simferopol friends. My sense of reason refused to understand and realize them.

But in issue No 7 of this year's YUNOST there appeared a poem of alarm, a poem of conscience, a poem of judgement by Andrey Voznesenskiy entitled "Rov" [The Ditch]. The author defined its genre as being a spiritual trial. It is a tribunal of humanity and reason over greedy blindness and blind stupidity in all their appearances. The horrible rumors turned out to be true. For many months in the darkness of night on the tenth kilometer, the "old and new diggers," the carrion crows, the greedy bats unearthed the fraternal grave of twelve thousand in search of valuables. Some of them were tried, but at that time the crime did not receive widespread and alarming publicity.

It was only after the publication of the poem "Rov" that case No 1586 was brought by the judicial departments to its logical conclusion and the guilty parties received a harsh punishment. But even while the finale of the poem "Rov" was being published, the scandalous blasphemy on the tenth kilometer, the night raids for grave gold still continued.

THE POEM'S FINALE

Life is the subject's finale.
The court has punished the vice.
The people hurry to the grave.
 The steppe is better.
Once again the footman brings to it
A spade wrapped in rags.
And no one brings a hyacinth.

This was only a few months ago. And recently a second trial was completed in Crimea, which was begun by the spiritual trial--the poem "Rov".

THE TRIAL

Their gold bridges and crowns shone as they answered in court. Sometimes they even smiled, and then the gold gleamed in the light in short flashes of angry lightning. This was gold from the darkness. They extracted it, along with automobiles, "modern" rags and other rubbish from the decaying graves at the grave site of the people shot by the Hitlerites. They indifferently moved aside what they didn't need: bones and such. They were only looking for valuables. For example, an entire collection of gold coins of old coinage was introduced in the court proceedings. Some of these coins had been shot through with bullets. The investigator wrote clearly: "Taken from S. Kandyba, V. Talalikhin, L. Melikhova..."

Who are these people?

We are loathe to call them people, these who make their fortune on death and curse Memory itself. We will recount only that small thing which remains of them as beings capable of thought--their names.

They are idler V. Kirillov, Crimean "Oblmezhkolkhozstroy" crane operator V. Nyukhalov, Moscow Scientific-Research Institute associate S. Kremenskiy, and physician S. Limarenko. D. Akhmedov, N. Melikyan and F. Fezulayev did not work anywhere, but lived in style in Simferopol, dealing in the purchase and sale of gold robbed from graves.

In the course of these proceedings, which were so exceptional from the standpoint of human reason and morals, the investigation established that at first the pillagers staged singular raids on graves which had swollen up and been left unattended. Then they placed the "matter" on a broad footing. Nyukhalov enlisted the aid of tugboat sailor Ye. Alekseyev, who had already been tried for robbery and hooliganism, and then the driver of an ATP-11076, V. Talalikhin. The string of robbers was continued by A. Bychko, a fitter-repairman at the Sevastopol enterprise "Era". In his 38 years, he had already served two sentences and spent almost two decades in imprisonment.

The "technology" of the criminals was horrible and primitive, as was their reason possessed by greed. They used shovels to dig trenches in the tragic ditch and handed up the rotting skulls and skeletons. The "work" was done in the light cast by automobile headlights. During their breaks they had a good drink, ate, and merrily counted up their future profits. They melted down the gold which they extracted and sold it to second-hand dealers. If the pieces were especially large, they simply washed off the grave dust. For example, V. Talalikhin once grabbed a pocket watch case from under the noses of his cohorts. He wiped it off and took it to the jewelry "brokerage". N. Ryzhov and S. Kandyba, of whom we will speak later, ordered massive signet rings to be made out of dentures at the "Rembyttekhnik" shop. They wore these rings, proudly holding out their fingers. Everything was as it had been written in the poem. The Crimea residents passed along the journal containing this poem from one hand to the next.

The value of the goods confiscated from the criminals is designated in five figures. Aleksey Meleshkov alone acquired 7,592 rubles worth of grave gold. He, like his brother Anatoliy, lived off of this awful business, off of speculation and dealing. Together with them and the other dregs of society, N. Semeykin, S. Kandyba, S. Soshinskiy, and N. Ryzhov headed to the tenth kilometer at night. If any of them held jobs, it was only for the sake of appearance. But A. Kurdbedinov, who was listed in personnel log No 3 of the Sevastopol Maritime Plant imeni S. Ordzhonikidze Production Association, had a special role. When the gang was still small and there were difficulties with transport, this two-faced scoundrel with a VUZ diploma in his pocket secured official automobiles for the "expedition".

Then A. Filonov, a worker at an air conditioning repair shop, and A. Gorbach, an electrician at a computer repair shop, appeared on the scene. Both had their own "motors". Upon their arrival, the raids on the ditch became systematic.

Worshipping profit and believing in it alone, these bearers of "king greed" and "greed-nuovo", as A. Voznesenskiy defined their dirty dealings, returned home in the mornings covered with grave dust and dirt, smelly and dishevelled. Many of them had wives who were not in the least bit embarrassed by the origins of the gold crowns, powder cases and chains. Some raised children.

Our blood runs cold when we think that there was a woman in this band of thieves. She was attractive in appearance. A saleslady at store No 2 of the Sevastopol gorkooptorg [city cooperative store], L. Melikhova was considered to be the heart of the company. She has one child, and is expecting another.

The actions of the 23 co-conspirators in the blasphemous business were evaluated and studied by senior investigators of the Crimean Oblast Internal Affairs Administration V. Lepekhov, L. Potapchuk and M. Zuyev, as well as by the Chairman of the People's Court of Simferopol rayon I. Kutsevol and people's judge R. Morozko. Their competency and care helped draw not only legal, but also moral conclusions from case No 1586.

The criminals got what they deserved. However, all of us must look into the darkness of this case again and again for the sake of the purity of our own souls.

Voznesenskiy Comments on Poem

Moscow SOVETSKAYA KULTURA in Russian 9 Oct 86 p 6

[Interview with Andrey Voznesenskiy by V. Dolganov: "Andrey Voznesenskiy Replies to Readers of the Poem 'Rov'"]

[Text] "Truth to the very bottom, publicity!", demands a doctor from Chita. "Science and economics must be united with morality," seconds a resident of Irkutsk. Alas, poetry too must solve publicistic problems. Sometimes, to be cured, we need shocking information, although the highest goal of poetry does not consist merely of this.

[Question] There is pain and alarm in the letters, indignation and at the same time hope that everyone who reads the poem "Rov" will gain a moral lesson from it. It is important for us first of all to find out how those appeared among us whom it is hard even to call people.

[Answer] The trial is over. But the punishment of the insulted shadow of 12,000 lives executed by genocide and killed again by the grave diggers does not end here. This punishment will soar over their fates. What they have done is not merely a crime, but that which among the people has long been called by a meaningful word: "sin". It is a sin as understood by the angry iconoclast Tolstoy, the passionate Dostoyevskiy, and our exposed conscience Yesenin. It is what Bykov and Adamovich spoke about and what Vysotskiy sang about, straining his voice in the struggle against evil. It is a sin before the memory of the innocent who were killed, a sin before the meaning of our short human life, before our conscience, before love, before the embraces of lovers and the miracle of the conception of life. It is a sin before the child which the one woman in this criminal group now bears under her heart. How could she, bearing the beating of a child's heart within herself, carry it to the corpse-filled abyss?

Is it only a crime when Ryzhov and Kandyba ordered and wore signet rings made from human teeth? Or when Nyukhalov went down by the light of the headlights to get the skeletons and break open the skulls? This is the narcomania of cruelty.

They told me in Crimea that the grave diggers found out the exact location of the burial site from a former German officer who had served his sentence and been freed. He should, as they say, think about his soul. But he sold the location of the execution site. I believe for 30,000. This is loathsome sin.

The group was comprised of workers, a doctor, an engineer from the chief technologist's section of "Rybyugsudoremont" who flew to the "affair" in his own "Volga" which he obtained on a business trip abroad. There were even two party members. In other words, these were most ordinary people by their social make-up.

These people were dauntless and unquestioning. They resembled the character in Bulgakovskiy's "Sobachye serdtse" [A Dog's Heart] who had received the transplant of a dog's heart and psychology. Life and death for them presented no

riddles. A skull for them was merely a piggy bank filled with gold teeth, which they had to break open. The question "To transgress or not to transgress?" did not exist for them, just as the question "To be or not to be?". I believe that it is specifically the forgetting of the eternal questions which have always tortured man that deprives him of his humanity. Rocks, plants, animals have no questions. Man is the only one who is tortured by questions about the meaning of life and death, about the riddle of the short time of his existence.

From Euripides with his "Life is death and death is life" to Plato and the Russian philosophers and down to the present-day thinkers, people have driven themselves mad with the accursed questions. Forgetting philosophy, and specifically the philosophy of questions, substituting it with paraphrases of standard stereotypes at the level of the tear-off calendar become in many cases the reason for spiritual dullness, poverty and primitivism. Man must himself find the truth, He must suffer it out, and not commit it to rote memory and forget it immediately after the exams.

[Question] Judging by everything, the poem was not given easily, it was a work of suffering. Yet its spiritual conflict is defined most clearly: "There are two nations--no matter how you hedge--the dead men and the creators, the creators and the dead men". This conflict is, I believe, made particularly current in our time. It is in social life, in each one of us if we want to be called a man.

[Answer] It was even physically hard to write. The ditch and the human abyss opening up beyond it were frightening. I myself am not weak nerved. I have seen all kinds of things. But after seeing the broken skulls and children's hair I couldn't sleep for about a month. The human mind is probably not meant for such overloads. After "Rov" I have to this day not been able to write a single poem. Evidently, my nerves have been burnt.

I remember seeing a lily of the valley in the green grass. I bent down, and it turned out to be the phalange of a child's little finger washed white by the rains and floods.

Everything seemed irreparable after this story. How is this possible in our time, with our people?

But the readers' letters, crying out in their passion, literally burning, gave me faith. Spiritual rebirth, spiritual renovation is possible. They showed that indifference and inertia engendered by the not-so-distant past are not all powerful.

The bravery of the thoughts expressed in the letters is astounding. This could not have been 2 years ago. The people not only want changes, but strive to participate in them. They are themselves changing. "I want the truth. I am hungry," writes a young poet from Khimok, K. Sedunov. A war veteran from Inta I. Dolinov calls for erecting monuments to Blyukher and Tukhachevskiy. "We need moral purification," such is the credo of an engineer from Sverdlovsk. Thus, the letters of the readers are becoming a new poem whose chapters consist

of different fates and confessions. Indignant at the wild fanaticism, each one poses his own questions. How pure are the letters of the young people! Here is one of them, with a return address from Simferopol: "The Komsomol student detachment requests the account number where we can send money in the sum of over 1,000 rubles which we have earned towards a building fund for a Memorial Field on the 10th kilometer. We made this decision after reading the "Rov"." There are many such letters. Here is what the young people from Dnepropetrovsk write:

"We were so taken with your poem that we are now creating the "Magistral" [Main Line] studio theater at our railroad worker DK [house of culture]. We hope to stage the play "Rov" not only within the walls of our DK, but also on the stage of other palaces of culture and clubs. If we are given the opportunity, we will also stage it in Chernobyl and Simferopol. If there are plays charging admission, all the proceeds from them will be forwarded to account No 904".

Notice one thing. Among the men in the criminal group, not one was under 28 years of age. All of them were brought up under the legacy of the not-so-recent years, when they learned to live by a "double truth".

Sometimes we think about new occurrences in a stereotyped way, using the old standards. How long we wanted to see only the barbarism and heartlessness of the "ironic generation," accusing it of egocentrism, infantilism and self-interest.

Now it has become fashionable to condemn its customs and tastes: light music, don't you see, is guilty!...Let us believe in the taste and complex world of the young, those 18 young border guards who saved almost 250 passengers of the "Nakhimov". Let them play any music they like.

It is good that the "Melodiya" company finally accepted the first record of Boris Grebenshchikov, a very fine and complex composer, the leader of the group "Aquarium", the leader of the so-called "new cassette culture." Letters pour in to him from all over the country. He is a high professional, combining the traditions of Russian northern song with the post-Pink Floyd manner.

His classical nature resists the deafness of the hard of hearing conservatives, as well as the drink galore mechanical "pop culture".

An interesting poetry club has now been created in Moscow, the first club operating on the cost accounting principle. The poets do not simply read their poems, but hold happenings together with musicians and artists. They plan to publish their own young people's poetry notebooks. The soul of the club is the bright poet Nina Iskrenko. They have the idea of reading their poems from a delta plane. And why not?

Some letters make us wary. Thirty-year old reader Marina D. agrees: the crime of the grave robbers is horrible and blasphemous. Yet at the same time she proposes digging up the ditch on an official, so to speak basis, sifting through it, removing all the gold, and using the money to "build a memorial, plant roses, or something of this sort"...

[Question] Probably, the best answer to this "practical" girl who wants to strip the gold from skeletons is given by R. Moldavanova in her letter: "For several days my mother and I read over every line of the poem. Everything we lived through stood before our very eyes. At the age of 15, I, together with my mother, miraculously escaped execution. On 2 November 1942 they rounded us up into a stadium, over 3,000, old people and children. They shot them in an anti-tank ditch near Rostov-on-Don. That is where my father remained..."

She is echoed by a reader from Omsk: "My grandmother was also shot by the fascists and buried in a common grave in Priluki. She asks that you explain how the image of Vysotskiy appeared in the poem. I like his songs, I record them. Why don't they publish his poems?"

[Answer] Do you remember Vysotskiy dressed as the Prince of Denmark? He played a street Hamlet, looking into the skull of Yorik, himself being the Moscow Yorik and poet. He sang when it was "forbidden". He sang about the thoughts of the man on the street, his questions and conversations. He sang of the everyday life of the working people, of the important personage caught in embezzlement, of the dark shadows, of the burocratic bordel. Time has shown that he was right about many things. Today he is praised even by those who condemned him during his life. Today a volume is being prepared in the "Sovetskiy pisatel" [Soviet Writer] series comprised almost entirely of Vysotsky's works. I hope that it will be published in a large enough edition. It is a pity that the poet did not live to see this work.

[Question] Some letters sound like a warning. Having memorized new words, the opponents of change remain essentially the same...

[Answer] Yes, people with an active conscience and fresh ideas annoy those who are inert. Recently I received several Simferopol newspapers which had been forwarded to me. One of them contained a rather rude remark by two instructors about a book summarizing the work of the poet A. Tkachenko. It would seem that these people do not understand poetry. It happens. If the two of them do not understand, call a third one. He will explain. Yet the co-authors, waving a club, negate the entire 15 years of the poet's creativity. Having misunderstood his poetry filled with interesting searching and civil passion, in their ignorance they scoff at the very same line which the front line poet M. Lukonin admiringly praised at the All-Union Conference of Young People, the line which Ye. Yevtushenko read at a seminar as an example of success. The sin of self-assurance undermines the co-authors of this comment.

Another newspaper dated 28 September carried an excellent angry article about the crime associated with the ditch. It is a shame, however, that the local press turned to this topic for the first time during the entire 2 1/2 years that this crime was being committed. After all, the first trial had taken place over 2 years ago. All these years the city had been filled with rumors, and the people wanted to know the truth.

I believe that had the newspaper turned in time to the people with a passionate article, had it told the whole awful truth about the 10th kilometer, maybe the

crime would not have been repeated. The number of participants in it would not have increased. And it would not have been the militia, but rather the public condemnation and anger of the people which would not have allowed the thieves access to the holy burial ground. Publicity is a great force. Honest, clean people live in Crimea. The public would have understood everything correctly.

[Question] By the way, here is another letter from Simferopol written by B. Achkinazi, a student of local lore who has been studying the history of the ditch. "On behalf of those whose parents, relatives and friends lie in the ditch, let me express my gratitude for your poem. One cannot read it calmly, without trepidation of the soul. It forces us to think and, most importantly, to take action now, immediately. I would like to share with you the information I have collected. After all, this ditch became the grave site of Jews, Crimea residents, and persons of other nationalities. Members of the underground, families of Soviet workers and war prisoners were all executed there. Your proposal to collect the names of those who perished there is a timely and current one." The authors of all the letters stress that the times demand from the artist, the creator, a new type of thinking, a civil courage. Is he ready for this?

[Answer] The processes which have begun in our country, and specifically in literature and art, are revolutionary. Each one of us can feel this. Nevertheless, the spiritual "new diggers" have certainly not yet been defeated.

The present-day publications upsurge and the press Renaissance following the Congress of Writers is necessary and is no accident. The literary men themselves are taking the publication of brave works into their own hands, not relying on their "good uncles". They are turning to the classics of our age, returning the great novels of Platonov, the muse of Gumilev, the prose of Nabokov and the pointed books of our times. The millions of people who buy up the new journals are voting for publicity. The reader now wants to hear also the classical lyre of V. Khodasevich. Our people have now matured and want to read and see all that is of value. We might add that it is time to publish an album of the unique graphic works of Yuriy Annenkov--portraits drawn from nature of the luminaries of the age of Blok, Mayakovskiy, Zamyatin, Akhmatova, and Pasternak. I myself am not without sin. For many years, for example, I have tried to write about Gumilev, to publish his poems, but alas, I didn't have enough energy to break through. Evidently those who have succeeded in this turned out to be more persistent and lucky.

When today (!) the editor of one of the publishing houses categorically demands that 70 (!) poems which have never before been published be removed from the "Selected Works" of our very old and highly esteemed poet Arseniy Tarkovskiy--this is a sin for which there can be no appeal.

Why has Penza, "the nonprovincial province" become a preserve of culture? Not only is it a preserve of Lermontov and Denis Davydov, but also of our century. The Meyerhold House invites us to visit a unique museum for a single painting. The gallery in the Lentulov halls contain his personal effects. It is as if you have come as a guest. And all this is possible because the devotee of

culture G. V. Myasnikov is in Penza. "When will they open the Chagall Museum in Vitebsk, in his homeland? After all, next year is the 100th anniversary of the artist," writes a pessimist from Minsk. "Why, they will never open it..." I am sure they will. Vitebsk will find its own Myasnikov.

One of the readers of "Rov" is concerned: in Cherkizov they are building a metro today so as to destroy a 17th Century baroque church, although the excavation could be done to the side. I telephoned First Secretary of the Architect's Union Administration A. Polyanskiy. A warning letter was sent immediately to the Main Architectural-Planning Administration. I believe the church will be saved. But my heart aches. Moscow is now doing much and most decisively to protect its monuments. However, nothing was moved in those who dug under the monument, threatening the destruction of the masterpiece? Tomorrow they will dig under something else. Is it not they who are now building a road and in the process of doing so demolishing historical Lefort facades associated with the name of Pushkin and making up the unique charm of the city?

During his travels, Academician Dmitriy Sergeyevich Likhachev told painfully of how at the Leningrad Institute of Electromechanics located on the first floor of the palace, the walls of the depository containing eastern manuscripts are shaken with vibration; how the second most important collection in the world (after the British Museum) is being ruined from this, how the Persian miniatures are flaking away and perishing, like butterflies dropping their pollen. Isn't this a sin before our country's sacred treasures?

The masterpieces created by masters of the current age--Filonov, Tatlin, Rodchenko, Vesninykh--are no less valuable than the classics of past ages. The Italian firm Artelucci produces electrical fixtures according to the designs of the very same Rodchenko, receiving gold medals at exhibitions. Meanwhile, our stupid bunglers continue to stamp out rough standard lamps of the "kitch" type. It is important for beauty to be a part of everyday life. Its study will kill the microbes of baseness.

[Question] One reader states most categorically: the NTR [scientific-technical revolution] destroys morality. Where can we find salvation from the base instincts?

[Answer] In the saturation of the social atmosphere with spiritual culture, which is morality embodied into an image. The Culture Fund which is currently being created is a unique organization. There, society itself, without any bureaucratic obstacles, will take on the concern for culture. This fund has a great deal of work to do. I see the purpose of the Fund as being primarily moral. It will become the public organ of culture. Its very indicator--voluntary donation--is contrary to money grubbing. The one who gives always becomes spiritually richer.

I have long been fascinated with the ecology of culture. This is in contrast to the predictions of philosophers who, beginning with Spangler's "Decline of Europe," foretell the decline of culture with the growth of civilization and the scientific process, which in their eyes is merely mechanistic and pragmatic.

There are some frightening traits of this. But now we can see the possibility of unifying Culture and Civilization. For example, today's television may become the messiah of spirituality, as is the case with the preachings of D. S. Likhachev or with the broadcast of the "Twelfth Story". It may be revolutionary, breaking the psychology of stagnation within the scope of the country. Sight is breaking through in the country.

The passion of the letters infects us with hope. Moscow resident I. Levitskaya tells of the fate of her son, who has gone away to foggy Kholmsk, which is on Sakhalin Island. For 16 years he has worked there as an architect, having forgotten the temptations of the capital city and his apartment. There he overcomes the difficulties of the everyday life. His joy is to build stepped houses never before seen on the steep relief, to etch funicular railways and elevator shafts into the untamed landscape. The leaders of spirit--you are right, Irina Aleksandrovna!--are not only those who stand on granite pedestals, but also those "touched fantasizers", in your expression, like your son. Thank you for him. Thank you for the hope.

Thank you to the Crimean bricklayers and builders who carefully and in a short time layed white stone and slabs along the one-and-a-half sacred kilometers of the ditch, and are currently completing the building of the Memorial Field with its 5-meter stone.

12322

CSO: 1800/112

CULTURE

KAZAKH CRITIC REVIEWS AYTMATOV'S NOVEL 'PLAKHA'

[Editorial Report] Alma-Ata QAZAQ ADEBIYETI in Kazakh on 19 September carries on pages 6-7 a 3,700-word review by Saylanbek Zhumabekov of Shynghys Aytmatov's new novel "Qylsha Moynym Talsha" (Executioner's Block), recently serialized in the June, August and September issues of NOVYY MIR. The article is published under the rubric "On the Eve of Khirghiz Soviet Literature Days in Kazakhstan" and is entitled "Struggle for Social Justice."

According to Zhumabekov, Aytmatov's new novel looks at the universal problem of a moral, environmentally sensitive existence in a complex world which often places the ego of the individual above the good of humanity as a whole. To achieve this goal Aytmatov, as was the practice in his previous novel, tells several stories at once, looking at the natural environment of the Saiga antelope and wolf, the world of the philosopher Avdiy Kallistratov, striving to find a new god, a new religion and new knowledge to bridge the gap between real life and religion, and "real communist" shepherd Boston Urkishiyev, who always lives true to his ideals, even when opposed by ruthless organization men who place plan fulfillment and personal power and advancement above everything.

Although, Zhumabekov goes on, the destruction of the antelope, of wolves, the perils of Kallistratov, whose sufferings are compared to those of Christ on the cross (thus the title of the novel), and the tragedy of "good communist" Urkishiyev suggests a bleak picture, Aytmatov is in fact optimistic about the ultimate fate of man. Aytmatov, Zhumabekov suggests, believes in the human heritage and the ultimate power of the right and the moral in the face of all adversity.

Zhumabekov notes the great skill of Aytmatov, who uses character and juxtapositions of individuals to develop philosophical ideas. He stresses Aytmatov's important position not only in multi-national Soviet, but also in world literature.

/12232

CSO: 1832/403

CULTURE

FIRST SECRETARY OF GEORGIAN CINEMA DISCUSSES QUALITY OF OUTPUT

Tbilisi KOMMUNIST GRUZII in Russian No 8, Aug 86 pp 83-88

[Interview with People's Artist of the Republic Eldar Nikolayevich Shengelaya, first secretary of the administration of the Georgian Cinematographers' Union, by G. Gigauri, under the rubric "Literature and Art": "Create Highly Artistic Films"]

[Text] [Question] The opening and principal report which you delivered at the recently held 6th Congress of Georgian Cinematographers gave rise to lively debate. In continuing the dialogue which was held on problems of craftsmanship and new tasks for the cinema, I'd like to hear, Eldar Nikolayevich, which of the works of the republic's cinematographers you consider worthy of singling out? Which of them meet the increasing demands of today and our urgent tasks?

[Answer] The past five-year plan has been a bountiful one for the Georgian cinema. Our daily lives and the further development of Georgian culture have had a positive effect on the upsurge of cinematography, and have assured for it a place of honor in Soviet cinema art. It is continuing to creatively assimilate and develop the great experience which has accrued to world cinematography.

It's difficult to recount here all the winning films and the awards which they've won. Let me just say that over the past five years Georgian films have twice been awarded the USSR State Prize and the Prize imeni Rustaveli; they've received four prizes from the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers; and have earned a great number of prizes at national and international film festivals. Among these are--Gigi Lortkipanidze and Gizo Gabeskiriya's film "Berega" [The Shores], G. Lortkipanidze's "Klyatvennaya zapis" [The Sworn Record], Rezo Tabukashvili's "Gruziny v Italii" [Georgians in Italy], Lany Gogoberidze's "Den-denskoy" [The Livelong Day], Gii Chubabriya's "Gruziya--vpered i vyshe" [Georgia--Onward and Upward], and others.

Also contributing to our successes was the film, "Golubye gory" [The Light Blue Mountains], written by Rezo Cheishvili, which took first place at the All-Union Festival and won the USSR State Prize. If one adds to the aforementioned (and incidentally, this should have been mentioned first) that Revaza Chkheidze's film "Tvoy syn, zemlya" [This is Your Son, O Land] was just recently awarded the Lenin Prize, then one can boldly assert that Georgian cinematographers are indeed responding to the party's concern for the development of the nation's culture, and are striving to create artistically sophisticated, highly principled productions.

The decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress were an inspiration to the motion picture experts of our republic who came to this great forum. They accepted the materials of the Congress as an incentive for their subsequent work, a guide for the future, and a source of inspiration. In the speeches of the orators one could feel that they wholeheartedly share the party's demands to call a spade a spade, and to forego dealing gently where directness and adherence to principle are called for.

If we sincerely wish our cinema to continue to flourish, then we must today approach matters entrusted to us with different standards and a different attitude. In speaking of quests we have in mind both the socio-political aspect and expanding the genre and thematic diversity, and a new approach to depicting the hero. The fact that both the bright and the dark sides of our life, our successes as well as our failures, fell under the sphere of attention of our films bears witness to the social activeness of the film makers, and to their interest in socio-political topics.

Concerning the main tasks of cultural policy, Comrade M.S. Gorbachev noted at the 27th CPSU Congress: "In striving for radical changes for the better in this area as well, it is important to structure all cultural-educational work in such a manner that it more completely satisfies the spiritual needs of the people, that it coincides with their interests... Our creative unions have rich traditions, and they play a significant role in the sphere of art, and in all society as well. But changes are required here also. The principal results of their work are not measured in terms of resolutions and sessions, but in the talented and original books, films, plays, pictures and musical productions our society needs, which are capable of enriching the spiritual life of the people."

This is what is required of us today, and this is what our principal attention should be focused on.

[Question] One must note with pleasure that along with the depiction of modern life, a proper place has been and is being devoted to themes of our history, and to the education of the upcoming generation. How are our motion pictures carrying on the splendid traditions of our predecessors?

[Answer] Yes, we have rich and glorious traditions here. The popularity and the high reputation of our Georgian motion pictures are grounded in the selfless labor of several generations of cinematographers. Many of those who established these splendid traditions are no longer among us, but we remember them, we learn from them, and we are carrying on their cause. They have bequeathed to us many highly artistic, inspirational films, including films on historical themes, which have a very great influence on their audience. These include above all, "Georgiy Saakadze," and "Arsen". Today both of these films have become classics. As Georgian CP Central Committee First Secretary Comrade D.I. Patiashvili noted at the Cinematographers' Congress, they played a great role in the matter of patriotic education of Soviet soldiers in the years of the Great Patriotic War.

Richly deserving the award of the Prize imeni Rustaveli was the multi-part, serialized artistic film, "Klyatvennaya zapis" [The Sworn Record], which was dedicated to the 200th anniversary of the Georgievskiy Treaty. The

film's creators succeeded in depicting in an interesting, inspiring way the concrete historical characters who, inspired by the brotherhood of the two nations, laid the foundation for liberating Georgia from the usurpers.

However, Giuli Chokhonelidze's "Bagration" is less satisfying to the maturing tastes of contemporary audiences. There's no denying that this celebrated military leader, of course, deserves the best treatment on film, depicting with great artistic realism his feats of arms which guarantee his position among Russia's greatest military leaders. In this connection it is fitting to note that every page of our history and every segment thereof is part of our national heritage. Therefore, the embodiment of historical examples in artistic productions must be approached with great care.

One cannot but recall here the conversation between a correspondent from the newspaper TBILISI and the young director Temur Babluani. "Do you plan to make a film about national heroes?" he asked. The answer which followed was unexpected, but is very noteworthy: "Only when I enter my period of artistic maturity will I feel competent to deal with that."

Only with such an attitude toward matters--a reserved opinion of one's own capabilities, and personal modesty--can one avoid creative failures. Everyone who serves the arts, who brings art to the very heart of the masses, should think about this.

[Question] The times continually demand a more profound understanding of spiritual values, and actively bringing artistic creativity to the workers. The ideological and moral education of the young people and activization of the human factor have become subjects of special concern. What kind of problems is the motion picture industry facing with respect to this?

[Answer] Every film serves ideological-political and esthetic education to one degree or another. This pertains especially to the present day, when films on contemporary themes are predominant.

Part of the films appearing in the republic's theaters are directly dedicated to topics for young people, and to problems of the formation of their moral character. These films force the young men and women to think about the positive and negative aspects of our conditions, and help them in making active decisions and in working out their proper positions in life. A filmmaker must respond to the questions which are of concern to the young people, as for example is done in Georgiy Levasheva-Tumanishvili's picture, "I shel sneg nad zimnimi sadami" [And Snow Fell on the Winter Gardens]. One could cite quite a number of other pictures dedicated to the quests of the young people, their tastes and their aspirations. I will only say that in the matter of educating those who will succeed us tomorrow, an equally great mission has been given to children's films, which was clearly defined in the CPSU Central Committee resolutions on this subject. At the present time our republic is producing but one children's film a year. Of the motion pictures made in recent times, the film "Svetlyachki" [The Fireflies], made by a graduate of our theatrical institute, David Dzhanelidze, has been especially successful. It recently received first prize at a festival in Alma Ata. This is the first Georgian children's film to win at a nationwide film festival, and is moreover the author's debut.

[Question] What can you say about the succeeding generation with respect to motion picture artistry?

[Answer] Young people have become firmly established in our cinematography, which poses new tasks for the creative union and the studio executives. It is necessary not only to provide the proper work for the new cadres, but also to properly guide their activities and help them display as fully as possible their capabilities and their potential.

In this respect the first successful steps have already been taken. We are genuinely pleased with the work of several young directors. Interesting pictures have been shown by Temur Babluani, Giya Mataradze, Goderdzi Chokheli, Bidzina Chkheidze, David Dzhanelidze, Eldar Mdinardze, Aleko Tsabadze, Koka Kuzanov, and others. This bears witness to the fact that the film studios are devoting serious attention to steadfastly bringing young people into the production process, and the young people in turn are striving (and not without success) to live up to the faith invested in them. Many of the young people's works have already earned prizes at nationwide and international film festivals.

The young people's section of the Cinematographers' Union, which comprises 120 persons, is carrying out fruitful activities. The experimental creative association "Debyut," which operates in close contact with the Gruziyafilm Motion Picture Studio, is a fine school for developing their craftsmanship. Since it has been in existence, 24 short films on artistic subjects have been made at Debyut. The republic State Committee on Motion Pictures and the directorate of the Gruziyafilm Motion Picture Studio recently founded still another new association, called "First Full-Length Artistic Film."

In speaking on training the succeeding generation of artists, I'd like to touch upon one more question. In the past most of the new personnel coming to Georgian studios were graduates of the USSR State Cinematography Institute. But ten years ago a department for film directors was founded at the Georgian Theatrical Institute imeni Sh. Rustaveli, and is now training the necessary personnel for the republic. However, not everything is going smoothly in this area. In this connection, the Georgian CP Central Committee, which heard reports from the secretary of the Cinematographers' Union and Omar Gvasali, a communist who supervises work with creative young people, has devoted special attention to educational and training problems in preparation of the cadres; it was stressed that a skilled motion picture artist must be molded not only as a professional, but also as a thoughtful person and a true citizen of his country.

[Question] Today interest in documentary film commentary has grown markedly. To what extent, in your view, is it coping with its tasks?

[Answer] Documentary films, on which L. Bakradze, M. Kokochashvili, D. Gabuniya, D. Gugunava and others are working successfully, have a great propaganda mission and a very serious task--to select the principal and most significant of current events, to understand their essential nature, and to create a truthful, interesting, contemporary figure.

In consideration of this task, several interesting films have appeared on the screen in recent years, among which we note the pictures of Rezo Tabukashvili. Their success was conditioned by painstaking study and in-depth research on the activities of a number of our prominent countrymen abroad, which allowed the author to discover certain questions anew and shed light on them, and to tell about many unknown pages of Georgian spiritual culture. The aesthetic and cognitive value of these films is intensified by the fact that the historical events are examined from highly moral positions. It is namely this above all which promotes the formation of genuinely moral ideals among the mass audience, and especially among the young people.

And nevertheless a significant portion of the films called upon to depict with profound social and political meaning the principal events of the past five-year plan were unable to avoid cliches, and are marked by spiritlessness. Such films include "Nachalo" [The Beginning], "Yuriskonsult" [The Legal Advisor], "Chayevod" [The Tea Grower], "Vinogradar" [The Wine Maker], and others.

It is also disappointing to note that our popular-scientific films are not up to the national standard. The reason for this, on the one hand, lies in the tight circle of people working in this genre; and on the other, in the lack of the proper technical facilities.

Presently the role and the significance of popular scientific films are increasing more and more, which in the broader concept signifies the growth of the human factor in science and in the socio-economic development of society. And this demands of the authors a profound grasp of the phenomena; establishing contacts with science; and in-depth study of the question, without which it is impossible to entertain the audience with full-value, impressionable films.

[Question] Georgian cinematography--which is in the vanguard of the multinational Soviet film industry--has a right to be proud. However there is no light without shadows. At the 27th Georgian CP Congress it was noted that, "Along with the motion pictures which received prizes at various festivals, one still encounters in the republic's cinematography films which are drab, mediocore, and lacking in ideals..."

[Answer] I've already spoken of several such films. And this list could be extended; but, I believe it would be better to focus attention on the main causes or the aforementioned shortcomings and to try to correct them.

I shall begin with the fact that certain film workers heed neither advice, nor criticism. Year in, year out they continue to create film productions distinguished by their low artistic and ideological level. We should get rid of such workers, for they are inflicting not only material damage, but are also causing greater moral damage with their unsuitable pictures.

The creation of poor productions can also be explained by the affinity for gross output, which inevitably weakens one's demands on oneself. When a director takes his chosen profession too lightly, one should expect nothing good from him. In the last five-year plan certain directors managed to shoot three films each, but far from all of these were found to have full

artistic value. And that is understandable: it is beyond the capability of a single individual to shoot three films in such a short period. Such well-known directors as Tengiz Abuladze, Otar Ioseliani, Georgiy Shengelaya, Lana Gotoberidze, and others, shoot no more than one film in a five-year period. By the way, Revaz Chkheidze worked on the picture "This is Your Son, O Land" for all of six years. Of course it would be desirable for our leading craftsmen to make films more rapidly, but there is a certain regularity in this "slow current." One should think carefully before one speaks.

And still, an ever-increasing number of movies are both written and directed by one and the same person. As a result such films are nearly always unsuccessful. It's all the better that what is being done in the Georgian film is the result of close interaction with Georgian literature, and this tradition ought not be lost.

[Question] Please give us a few words about other pressing problems of the Georgian film industry...

[Answer] We in the motion picture profession are seriously concerned with the question of attracting an audience. We believe that a reexamination of our attitude toward certain genres is one aspect from which to resolve this question.

In their time, remarkable examples of musical films were created in our republic: "Keto i Kote," "Melodii Veriyskogo kvartala," and others. But in the past five-year plan hardly any progress was noted in this direction. Our talented composers must be more actively recruited for working in films. We must not deprive the audience of the pleasure derived from the "singing" screen.

We should also give serious thought to developing such genres as fantasy, adventure, and detective films. This is a genuine reserve, which would permit drawing the audience closer to us, and provide variety to our work.

It was emphasized in the Political Report to the 27th CPSU Congress that one of the basic directions for developing the economic mechanism is expanding the limits of independence of associations and enterprises. Then why has the republic State Committee on Cinematography not been granted the right to approve film scripts and finance motion picture camera crews itself? After all, it knows best where the funds should be primarily directed. It could distribute them in a purposeful manner and would be responsible for their proper expenditure.

We have a complaint for both the national and the republic film-rental agencies. This sector, as was noted at the 27th CPSU Congress, requires serious improvement. We are often invited to various remote sections of the country, where we meet with the public, and feel their intense interest in Georgian films. And then it turns out that in this or that region, even within the bounds of the republic, they are hardly shown at all, at the whim of some minor official.

And that, by the way, is what happened to me last year. As a deputy I met with the residents of the village of Gantiadi in the zone of the city of Gagra. Believing that they had already seen the film "Golubye gory" there, I brought a different film with me. It became clear, however, that they had not shown the aforementioned film here. Moreover, it turned out that "Golubye gory" had not been shown even in the movie theaters of Gagra. And you see, this is a region where the audience changes several times a month. No commentary, as they say, is required...

Our conversation has dragged on somewhat; nevertheless, in conclusion I'd like to touch on film criticism. In recent times it has become more active. Young film experts are playing a larger role in the process. However, the subject of discussion continues to concern primarily the films which have already received high marks. Film critics are avoiding impartial discussion of poor films. And after all, such discussions would not only help the film professionals, but would also help form public opinion about these productions, and would promote the development of the public's artistic taste.

In spite of a number of shortcomings, the Georgian film industry has greatly expanded its boundaries, and has won worldwide recognition. In spite of this fact, until recently not a single fundamental work has appeared, dedicated to this story. This work is still awaiting a client, and the Khelovneba Publishing House is for some reason remaining aloof, and is not showing any interest in the matter.

Everyone who works in the film industry must devote all his efforts to its development--the guarantee of which is a critical attitude toward our own creative work.

9006

CSO: 1800/113

SOCIAL ISSUES

TV VIEWERS QUIZ OFFICIAL ON SOVIET LEGALITY, LAW ENFORCEMENT

LD040900 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1600 GMT 2 Dec 86

["Problems, Search, Solutions" program, discussing "Democracy and Legality; Soviet Democracy, Socialist Legality," presented by Lev Aleksandrovich Voznesenskiy, with Nikolay Aleksandrovich Bazhenov, first deputy procurator general; Galina Fedorovna Sukhoruchenkova, secretary of the All Union Central Council of Trade Unions; Boris Vasilyevich Zabotin, deputy minister of internal affairs; Boris Vasilyevich Kravtsov, justice minister; and Sergey Ivanovich Gusev, first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Court, in the Moscow studio: participants are seen in the center of the studio surrounded by telephone booths in which operators are sitting to take incoming telephone calls -- live]

[Text] While you are being reminded of our telephones, I will say that in selecting subjects for our broadcast, we, of course, proceed from the objective course of events in the country, taking into account the most pressing task being tackled by the party and the people. A great role in this guidance process is played by your letters, comrades. Many of them specifically requested that we organize a meeting between television viewers and leading officials of law and order bodies in the country and discuss problems concerning the further strengthening of legality under the conditions of the all-round democratization of the life of society which is now taking place. This process just as for that matter any other major social processes is both complicated and contradictory in its development. Here is a small testimony to this: The telegrams and letters which quickly reached the central television studio after the press announced the subject of our broadcast. These telegrams and letters tell of violations of democratic norms, norms of law and order in some cases. I wish to hand these letters and telegrams to you, comrades, inasmuch as many of them have been personally addressed to those present behind this table. Now would you please distribute them round, Mikolay Aleksandrovich - and we will begin to answer the questions which have come in and are coming in over the telephone.

I think that we shall start with one of perhaps the most complicated questions. It is asked by comrades:

(Boris Mikhaylovich Ivlay) how long will complaints be sent to those against whom the complaint is being made?

Similar information is conveyed by Comrade (Mikhail Petrovich Petrov) who connects his question precisely with the fact that he wrote to the USSR Procuracy but did not receive a reply.

(Yevgeniyevna Dikalova Tamara) and (Grigoriy Romanovich Vilshteyn) from Kharkov telephoned in this question;

A number of other comrades pose this question.

Nikolay Aleksandrovich, please give us your opinion:

[Bezhenov] Such practices by officials of sending complaints to the very official against whose actions complaints are lodged are undoubtedly not in accordance with the law and should, of course, be eradicated. It should be noted, however, that complaints are not always sent to the bodies specifically obliged to resolve these complaints. This lengthens response time, creates red tape, and fosters incompetent resolutions of some of these complaints. Therefore, it is obviously necessary that consultations should be held in the procuracy and in the legal profession, and at the courts as to where each complaint should be sent and how they should be solved. In any case, however, sending complaints for resolution to that comrade against whose actions complaints are being made should, of course, be avoided.

[Voznesenskiy] Can perhaps someone add something to this?

[Kravtsov] I wished to say that the practice of the courts of justice, the work of the courts of justice, judicial practice, shows that indeed the legal incompetence of managers costs both the people and the state very dearly. It costs money when a person is dismissed without cause, without grounds then tries to recover, so to speak, the money, the damages suffered when not working. This is a serious question.

[Voznesenskiy] But after all there are some questions which must without fail be decided locally. How are we then to strengthen the capability and the readiness of the local authorities, of the local management bodies, to decide those questions which are within their competence. After all, a considerable flow of letters and complaints addressed so to speak to higher authorities is dictated precisely by the unwillingness or the incorrect, the undisputably incorrect, solution of a question locally. Does this happen? Please, Boris Vasilyevich.

[Zabotin] Allow me, Lev Aleksandrovich. Practice shows that considerably fewer complaints reach central authorities from areas where the reception of citizens is well organized in the law enforcement bodies. We in the Ministry of Internal Affairs are paying attention to this very thing.

[Voznezenskiy] Thus, people coming to consult a qualified person, cannot only receive a reply, but also in the event that his reply does not satisfy the petitioner in question in some way, he can at least receive a special consultation as to whether he has grounds for appealing to higher authorities and as to precisely which these authorities are. Good! Yes, please.

[Gusev] You have put it correctly, Lev Aleksandrovich. This can be witnessed in the practice of the USSR Supreme Court. When a person comes to consult us in our citizens' reception room regarding matters which date back some time, which have been going through the courts of the state for some time, our practice has been as follows of late: We show attention, this goes without saying, but for each fourth complaint about a court case, if guidance is accepted, a corresponding protest is lodged. That is to say, on the one hand, this is still proof, that there are mistakes which need to be corrected and, that not yet everything, so to speak, is being decided as is befitting there. On the other hand, it is stressed that if attention is shown, all leading officials in the central departments all show attention, probably--and it is still possible here, too, to correct (?what has done incorrectly.)

[Voznesenskiy] Inasmuch as we started with the subject of complaints and petitions I wish to read out the question by (Leonid Borisovich Boremin), a Great Patriotic War veteran from Moscow: What measures are being taken in order for the state and public institutions reaching them within a month, as has been decreed by the USSR supreme Soviet. How is compliance with this procedure monitored? Are transgressors held responsible? Can any one speak on this subject? Please, Nikolay Aleksandrovich.

[Bazhenov] Sometimes comrades think that when they have dispatched a complaint...

[Voznesenskiy interrupting] From that moment the period of 1 month begins to run..

[Bazhenov] The period of 1 month begins to run, forgetting that delivery takes time. Therefore, when speaking of the procuracy and all law enforcement bodies, we have a strict procedure to answer, to resolve a complaint in the course of a month. In the event -- after all there are very complicated, voluminous, large complaints -- and in this event, depending on how such a complaint turns out in actual fact -- we extend the deadlines, but the person lodging the complaint, the petitioner, is notified without fail.

In other words, in each individual case, the person who hands in the complaint is aware why the resolution for this particular complaint is delayed. This is the practice of all law enforcing organs.

[Voznesenskiy] Nikolay Aleksandrovich, there is also the latest part of the question. What measures are taken against those who violate these time limits? I am personally interested in this question as well because I am sometimes forced to break these time limits due to the abundance of correspondence we receive.

[Bazhenov] Each individual case of violating the time limits allocated to settle the complaint, the non-objective violation of the complaint's time limit, rests within the jurisdiction of the various officials in the procurator's office, that is, if one is talking about the procurator's office.

Those cases, which we redirect to the competent department, and then they in turn do not settle the questions raised in the complaint, we judge as a matter of personal responsibility of certain officials working in either one of the other departments. It becomes a question of the time limit allocated for the settlement.

[Voznesenskiy] We have just received a question from Sergey Petrovich Ivanov, an engineer. What measures are taken to make public crime rate figures in this country? Boris Vasilyevich, I believe you can answer this question.

[Zabotin] Lev Aleksandrovich, the statistics, which are so to say, necessary, are indeed publicized, and today the law enforcement organs are evaluating what else can be done in this domain. With regard to government automobile inspection, accidents and collisions, we publish the relevant statistics corresponding to individual regions in the press; when addressing collectives we reveal figures concerning the crime rate, give comparative statistics. By the way, if we talk about this year -- we understand of course, that positive developments must also be critically assessed -- however, in the last 10 months the crime rate generally has declined by 4.4 percent.

[Voznesenskiy] In comparison with the 10 months of last year?

[Zabotin] Yes, since last year. The crime rate has declined in the streets and in public areas, which is quite important. Crimes such as murder, and attempted murder have declined by 22 percent. We regard this as a result of fighting drunkenness and of stepping up the fight against drunkenness. Greivous bodily harm, theft of government-public property have decreased by 21 percent, theft of personal belongings has decreased by 12 percent and what is very remarkable in our view, home burglary by 19 percent, although beforehand they have always been on the increase. In other words, we can see some positive developments, however, I repeat that for the time being we are critically assessing them.

[Voznesenskiy] Boris Vasilyevich, I am glad that you have made these figures public, but maybe we can even go a step further in disclosing further information on this very current topic, and commenting on the statistics relating to the increase in law-breaking. In a number of respects.

[Zabotin] I can tell you, that car burglary, fraud, have increased. I believe, the increase is to do in a sense to the organs' activities, such as in speculation, a 5 percent increase has been revealed; in embezzlement via misappropriation and misuse, and in bribery an increase of 11 percent has been revealed.

[Voznesenskiy] In other words, you regard the increase in these statistics first of all as a consequence of the law enforcement organs' concentration of additional attention and powers on these particular types of crime?

[Zabotin] Yes, as the first results on the whole, of carrying out the CPSU Central Committee's resolution for stepping up the fight against unearned income.

[Voznesenskiy] [several speakers talk and laugh at the same time] The problem of publicity is an extremely important one, and we hope that Galina Fedorovna will not mind if we give her another moment to rest.

[Gusev] For those assembled here, for the representatives of these departments, publicity is a must in our activities, because publicity forms an element of legality, an element of democracy, not only of our legal institutions, but also of their functions. We believe that openness is necessary because through it we obtain certain feedback. When we talk to people via the press, radio, and television by speaking, reporting, and publishing certain things we receive some sort of reaction which also helps us to continue the further strengthening of legality. So when Vladimir Ivanovich Terebilov, the chairman of the Supreme Court, on 24 October gave an interview to the newspaper IZVESTIYA under the headline; "legality and time" we introduced a suggestion there. Actually he introduced this suggestion in his interview, but this is a position of the supreme court and I can simply reiterate it once more. First and foremost we would like to see crime statistics published in an appropriate form in the press. In what form? One has to determine this. Perhaps Boris Vasilyevich, minister of justice, will decide on some appropriate forms. Perhaps we should begin somehow at the beginning. We have never published anything like this before, but we have to start somewhere. I believe that it is necessary to do it. Second, a newspaper to cover juridical matters is very necessary, you know. Because first not all our correspondents are lawyers. They do not always cover this or that trial in our central press, the way one would wish to see it. I will even refer here to China. I have recently read that a law newspaper has begun to function in China, and they have an association of some 300 or 400 law journalists at that. You see, they seem to have solved this matter. I believe that we must also continue to think about this because, in the long run, this openness will strengthen legality and, besides, what does our restructuring consist of? Mikhail Sergeyevich has defined it in this way: The elimination of all sorts of negative developments plus openness. Restructuring will then also, progress, so to speak, accordingly. This is what I wanted to add on the matter of openness.

[Voznesenskiy] Over to you.

[Kravtsov] I'd like to say a final word to conclude this question. Sergey Ivanovich has referred to the Ministry of Justice. The Ministry of Justice is indeed now working thoroughly on this problem, together with other law protecting bodies: the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Office of Public Prosecutor, and the Supreme Court. We will prepare and introduce these proposals in order to inform our public, citizens, so to say, more widely about both convictions and criminality.

[Voznesenskiy] So, comrades, both Boris Vasilyeviches and Sergey Ivanovich without suspecting it have replied to the question of (Oleg Vasilyevich Novitskiy) which has just come in on the phone about whether the statistics for criminality are going to be published.

[Sukhoruchenkova] Dlev Aleksandrovich, I'd just like to...

[Voznesenskiy] Well, we have not yet given Galina Fedorovna an opportunity to get in a single word. [laughter from the presenter and other speakers]

[Voznesenskiy] Yes. Well, you have given useful information. Thank you. So, Galina Fedorovna, in what way are the losses recovered from both workers and engineers guilty of defective output. Are they deprived of bonuses or asked to pay fines from their pay? Is it lawful from the legal point of view?, (Vladimir Aleksandrovich Talanov) a journalist from Moscow, asks.

[Sukhoruchenkova] Esteemed Vladimir Aleksandrovich, the question that you are raising today is extremely topical. You know that as of 1 January 1987, 1,500 enterprises are switching to work based on the principle of state acceptance. The question of the quality of produced output, therefore -- the fight for product quality -- is coming to the agenda of today. One of the ways to encourage product quality is to increase the role of bonuses. Alongside the raising of the role of bonuses, responsibility for defective output is increasing; it must increase. We have various kinds of bonuses. In the light industry, for example, the size of bonuses for the products classified as top quality is increasing and accordingly bonuses decrease if the output produced is of lower quality. In machine-building branches of industry there is a bonus system for getting items accepted the first time. In production industries there is a system of pay increases for faultless work and for the output of high quality products. The size of the pay increase may reach 24 percent at that and if the output produced is faulty pay is correspondingly lowered or cancelled. One's qualifications may also be down-graded for a period of time of up to 3 for gross infringement of the production process. Under the present conditions the funds for economic incentive schemes are acquiring importance. In particular, certain amounts are withheld from material incentive funds in accordance with the following: 5 percent is deducted from the material incentive fund for every 1 percent of defective output. Since the funds of material incentives are becoming one of the main sources for paying bonuses, high quality work is, therefore, economically necessary for an enterprise. Finally, in answer to your question, I should like to add that the law makes provision for making people materially responsible for substandard output. The latest edition of the law states that the penalty for directly causing damage is at the rate of the average salary. Previously, it was one third of earnings; now, responsibility has been increased to a penalty of the average earnings. This can be deducted from manual, engineering, and technical workers on the instruction of the manager of an enterprise; in the case of an enterprising manager, a senior manager deals with this.

[Voznesenskiy] Obviously, such things do not go through without some sort of correcting and controlling influence on the part of the trade unions organization?

[Sukhoruchenkova] Of course not, the trade unions take most active part in drawing up the conditions for awarding bonuses; and all this is written down in the conditions for awarding bonuses. These matters are examined together with the trade union committee at an enterprise.

[Voznesenskiy] Thank you. Comrades, who would like to reply to a question from (Yevgeniy Ivanovich Denisov), who has just telephoned from Mytishchi, and to a question from driving teacher Mikhail Andreyevich Gorbiyevskiy, from the town of Kelmentsy, Chernovtsy Obast. (Yevgeniy Ivanovich) asks: Do you think our laws on citizens' labor is too humane, which leads to the emergence of idlers, parasites and so on? (Mikhail Andreyevich) asks, or more accurately informs us: Here in the Ukraine a lot of parasites have sprung up, people who do not work. What is being done to compel them to work? (Boris Vasilyevich), please.

[Zabotin] Well, the fight against those who are vagrants and parasites and live at society's expense has been stepped up, and in the Ukraine as well. Of course, first and foremost this means preventive measures; that is bringing to light those persons who do not work, cautioning them, assisting them in finding jobs and sending whoever need it to reform labor preventive institutions [vospitatelno-trudovoy profilaktoriy].

Responding to suggestions from working people and public organizations, this year the law and order organs submitted to the legislative instance a proposal for introducing a number of amendments in the existing law. It is intended to eliminate the loop-holes which idlers make use and which hamper timely legal measures from being taken against them. This will, in the case of a positive decision, enable the struggle to be stepped up against a parasitic way of life, which forms the ground for many crimes to be committed.

[Voznesenskiy] There are well-known incidents of the law and order organs illegally usurping citizens' rights. What specific additional measure are envisaged to guarantee genuine protection of the rights of citizens in the aforementioned incidences? This is a question from war disabled (Yuriy Pavlovich Velichkin), similar sorts of questions have been asked by (Igor Dmitriyevich Grachev), and (Nikolay Vasilyevich Zemlyakov) from Orel. Incidentally, several of the questions contain direct criticisms of the ministries which you, esteemed comrades here, represent. So, what is being done and what is to be done in order to ensure that the legitimate rights of citizens are in not the slightest degree violated in the course of citizens' contacts with the law enforcement organs? Nikolay Aleksandrovich, over to you.

[Bazhenov] Before fighting violations of the rule of law, one must of course prevent violations of rule of law by oneself. Therefore, of course, in each

specific instance this or that person on the staff of the law enforcement organs is made duly responsible for breaking the law, right up to criminal liability, and we shall continue to act in this same way in future, too.

Above all, however, we educate our personnel, and all the law enforcement organs, in such a way that such violations of the rule should not occur, because any such violations of the rights of the citizen incur certain negative consequences, and we, of course, call strictly to account any of our comrades who commit any violations in his practical activity. We shall continue to do so.

[Voznesenskiy] As far is known, a considerable amount of work in this respect is being carried out by the internal affairs organs.

[Zabotin] Yes, Lev Aleksandrovich, we regard every violation of the role of law as an exceptional occurrence. An official investigation is conducted, and harsh penalties are applied: Not just disciplinary penalties, so to speak, but also, if necessary, the sack, and some individuals are put on trial. Senior staff who fail to anticipate violations of the rule of law are also called to account. An important fact is that recently we have been making public all measures taken to insure the staff is aware that they must not infringe the personal rights of citizens.

Furthermore, in connection with the decision of the CPSU Central Committee on insuring the rule of law, we have in view structural changes...

[Voznesenskiy] You are talking here about the decision we read about 2 days ago.

[Zabotin] Yes, yes.

[Voznesenskiy] In that case, Boris Vasilyevich, I shall cite its exact title -- not all comrades may have devoted attention to it yet: "On Further Strengthening Socialist Legality and Law and Order, and Enhancing the Protection of the Rights and Legitimate Interests of Citizens." This is the title of the party Central Committee's decision.

[Zabotin] Yes, in connection with this the Ministry of Internal Affairs is drawing up measures which will relate to changing the structure, including that of the investigating apparatus; strengthening cadres in difficult sectors, including the senior staff. A package of organizational and training and methodological measures has been drawn up because sometimes violations are caused by lack of knowledge or experience. A proposal for stepping up professional control is being examined. The content of training work will be directed toward inculcating a keen sense of justice, as the CPSU Central Committee decision demands.

[Voznesenskiy] [Aleksandr Vasilyevich Litvinov] from Almalyk has just telephoned us to say that the procuracy is called upon to defend Soviet legality, but often violates it in the most crude manner. When will persons

who violate Soviet legality finally be punished in accordance with the law? I cited this telephoned telegram not so that we should repeat what we have already said, but in order to stress that right now, while our program is on the air, quite a lot of these telephoned telegrams are coming in, in which comrades are insisting upon rigorous observance of the existing laws, and upon insuring that no official position should lead to violation of or deviation from the norms of law. In connection with your reply, Boris Vasilyevich, I should like to report that military lawyer (Valeriy Mikhailovich Malikovskiy), from Petropavlovsk-Kamchatka, has just asked what measures are to be taken to implement this same decision on further strengthening socialist legality; and he, alongside other questions -- I cannot enumerate them all -- asks a question which I should like to address to Boris Vasilyevich. Things are in a very bad way where juridical literature is concerned; it is hard to buy it. What will be done in this regard? It seems to me that this question, at first glance a private question, is of fundamental importance, if only because we have already talked about the fact that legal training of managers, including economic managers, and simply of the mass citizens, too, is nevertheless clearly insufficient in our country. Boris Vasilyevich, over to you -- about literature and legal training.

[Kravtsov] I would like to reply to Comrade (Valeriy Malikovskiy), a military lawyer, a colleague...

[Voznesenskiy] Yes, yes, I have just quoted his question.

[Kravtsov] Well, first of all, we have already spoken a little about the party Central Committee decision which was adopted a few days ago. I should say that this document envisages an extensive program of actions for the further improvement of the legal base, a strengthening of the legal base, I would say, of state and public life. Of course the law enforcement organs have been set responsible tasks.

There is no need to go over again what is stated in that very comprehensive and weighty document. Of course, at the level of the ministry of Justice, the Procuracy, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Supreme Court urgent measures will be taken and some measures will be elaborated for the long-term. We shall be engaged in this for a long period and give it considerable attention. And now to answer question No 2.

[Voznesenskiy] Please, but Boris Vasiliyevich, try to avoid answering sent in by one comrade and leaving no time to answer any question sent in by someone else. So, very briefly please.

[Kravtsov] Right, very briefly. Comrade (Malikovskiy) writes that the legal personnel are trained in higher educational establishments and that there are many shortcomings here. Many uncommitted people are admitted. How is the question of admittance of people to legal specialities to be resolved? I take this to be a question of admittance of people to legal education establishments and Comrade (Malikovskiy) is concerned about preventing uncommitted people from getting in.

Well, at the present time there is a broadly applied procedure in the law enforcement bodies -- the Procuracy bodies, and bodies of the ministry of internal affairs and justice -- whereby they select university candidates and send them off to study, on condition that when they finish they will work in these bodies. Of course, since they work hard to select the right university candidates, people are screened well and suitable candidates get selected for the courses, but there are regulations. Along with the Ministry of Higher Education we are currently thinking of making certain necessary adjustments, perhaps, to insure that uncommitted people, unsuitable for work in the law enforcement bodies, do not end up in the juridical educational establishments.

[Voznesenskiy] Sergey Ivanovich, here is a question for you, a very serious question. Mining engineer (Vladimir Georgiyevich Babayev) writes as follows: Is the law enshrined in the constitution -- I'm quoting it just as it was dictated -- that all citizens are equal before the law being applied in principle [as heard]? How can your practical experience help us to answer this question?

[Gusev] It is an indisputable fact -- and the Supreme Court constantly underlines this provision of the constitution -- that all are equal before the law and the courts. Before going into this in greater detail, I should like to say a word or two about the fact that we too -- at the Supreme Court, that is -- have also turned our attention to the important matter of strengthening legality in the administration of justice in criminal cases. We believe this to be a very important, fundamental question which stems directly from the decision of the party's Central Committee of 20 November this year, which we have just been discussing and which Boris Vasilyevich has just spoken about. The whole point is that our constitution lays down a whole complex of real political and all sorts of economic and social rights. For our Soviet legal system, the protection of the rights and legal interests of our citizens is not just a matter for the citizen: it is also a matter for our state. Respect for the individual, his rights, and the freedoms of citizens are within the obligations of all state bodies and public organizations and institutions.

Well, regrettably, you know how it is: There are a lot of principles, but life sometimes -- certain specific departures from the norm on the part of certain judges and others who work in the law enforcement bodies. We consider one of our most important tasks to be to struggle to eliminate this, so that all are genuinely and truly equal before the law and the courts, so that there are no external influences on the judges -- this is also stressed in the decision -- so that judges are independent; so that they answer only to the law; and so that there are no convenient judges, by which I mean the sort of situation where someone says something somewhere, and this has to be done without fail. If a judge is not steadfast, if he is not committed to the law and to relevant party principles, he will, of course, also breach the rights of citizens. The result will be, as the question said, that the impression will be formed that not all are equal before the law and the courts. We believe that this must be eradicated from our practical work, and we are going about just that.

[Voznesenskiy] It seems to me, Sergey Ivanovich, that your practical work has recently involved quite a lot of major cases - I would even say too many, unfortunately - passing through the Supreme Court both of the republics and the USSR and involving senior officials who at one time held quite important posts and who regrettably failed to justify their appointment to these posts. The very way in which this category of officials is dealt with shows that this provision of our constitution, this law and order provision, this feature of the whole of the Soviet way of life is increasingly taking root in our practical procedures. Am I right in this respect?

[Several voices] Yes!

[Gusev] That is quite correct! It would suffice to refer to one of the most recent example: The conviction of the Uzbek SSR Minister of Cotton Growing [title as heard -- should be cotton-ginning]. Practically the entire ministry collegium came before the legal collegium for criminal trial by the USSR Supreme Court. They all got their just desserts. Usmanov was sentenced to the supreme penalty, and all the others were sentenced to lengthy periods of deprivation of freedom for over-reporting, for deceiving the state, for theft and for bribe-taking. That is an example of the way all are equal before the law.

[Voznesenskiiy] A number of people are beginning to look ahead to how our economic life is going to develop in connection with the implementation of the recently-adopted law on individual labor activity. For instance, (Vasiliy Nikolayevich Bartyak) is interested in how matters relating to working premises are to be settled so that carpenters, joiners, metal-beaters, and others can work in such premises. As far as I can gather, (Vasiliy Nikolayevich) is concerned in the present instance with whether this individual labor activity with its accompanying noise and din, and possibly the use of chemicals of some kind, is going to affect the peace and quiet of people living in the vicinity. Galina Fedorovna, over to you.

[Sukhoruchenkova] It was (Vasiliy Nikolayevich) wasn't it?

[Voznesenskiy] Yes, (Vasiliy Nikolayevich)

[Sukhoruchenkova] (Vasiliy Nikolayevich) has raised a difficult question. The law has only been adopted. It must be given time to exist and to start to work. Naturally, the appropriate conditions are needed to insure that the law works. The questions raised by this viewer are, of course, becoming burning issues. It seems that in this regard the soviets of people's deputies and the trade union organizations both at peoples' place of residence and at the workplaces of the people who want to carry out individual labor activity must render a certain amount of assistance with this. If women's work is involved, perhaps the women's councils which are just being set up will be involved here, particularly at people's place of residence. This is also one of the areas of activity.

[Voznesenskiy] Yes, this could indeed be a very useful area of their work, I must say. But at all events it is important to make a start...

[Sukhoruchenkova] Quite right!

[Voznesenskiy] That is what I think, and subsequently questions like those you have just been answering will be tackled.

[Kravtsov] I should like to add this to what Galina Fedorovna said. Viewers have no doubt that the law comes into force on 1 May next year.

[Voznesenskiy] Why is that?

[Kravtsov] The natural question to ask is why? As was correctly stated, this law also needs to be given a legal underpinning.

[Voznesenskiy] The legal mechanism for the implementation of the law needs to be set up.

[Kravtsov] Yes, certain instructions and legally binding acts are needed, because many questions arise about, for instance, special benefits, or about associations and cooperatives. There are certain referral provisions: [norma otsylochnaya] The law says plainly that this, for instance, will be provided for in a government decision. These matters must be resolved.

[Voznesenskiy] So this still needs some time.

[Gusev] May I add the following, Lev Aleksandrovich?

[Voznesenskiy] Of course.

[Gusev] It is well known today that over many years our state has accumulated a vast economic potential. The aim at the moment is to employ it correctly, and particularly on the basis of the decisions of the 27th party congress. In connection with the economic reform, all the economic principles must be taken into account, so that the process of acceleration, the human factor and so on should come into operation. Against this background, the law on individual labor activity, which will be in operation in the USSR from 1 May, must be geared above all, it seems to me, to insuring that individual labor activity is used in goods and services, in the consumer field above all, and helps to solve the economic problem, and insuring that people work and earn additional profit from their work in accordance with the amount of work put in. That is also part of the problem of acceleration. We are obliged, of course, to follow this, and Noris Vasilyevich was right in saying what he did, and I think I want to take it further. It is not only instructions which are needed here, because now the local Soviets which have the job of monitoring will be in a very difficult position, because the law is very broad and wide. I think that we should also think about -- with our comrades sitting here, and probably also the presidium of the supreme soviet -- clearly a decision [postanovleniye] is heeded on the proper order in

applying this law. In that case it will start operating immediately. There will be the sort of mistakes which we made, let's be honest about it, in applying another law, the one on the fight against unearned incomes: first we adopted the law, then we made mistakes, and finally started to put them right. I think that we must draw from this lesson and the decision is essential here, and the instruction will be like a corresponding supplement to it. Then the law will probably help citizens in their everyday life.

[Voznesenskiy] Good. Some questions have come in on a fairly topical problem: From (Vladimir Timofeyevich Cherkov), an engineer from Sverdlovsk, asking what is being done to fight instances of drug abuse [narkomaniya]. What measures are being taken against persons taking part in this? The same question, with reference to young people, is asked by Comrade (Mordovin) from Moscow; Comrade (Kozichev) puts it this way: many drug abusers have appeared in our country. What is it: a crime or a pleasure? What measures will be taken against them? Comrade (Arapov) from Kiev says: drug abusers and suppliers of drugs? Probably over to you, first and foremost; if you please, Boris Vasilyevich.

[Zabotin] We must not dramatize the situation. We do not have the widespread drug abuse that they have in the West. Suffice it to say that in the United States there are approximately 22 million drug abusers. We have some tens of thousands in the whole country. But, considering the tragedy of the West, we must not close our eyes to the danger, and so the fight against drug abuse has been intensified in the country, and specially in eliminating the causes.

Drug abuse is a reason for committing sometimes serious crimes, and then great tragedies. For this reason, to prevent it we need openness [glasnost], openness about the measures being taken. Incidentally, in the 12th issue of the magazine CHELOVEK i Zakon [MAN AND LAW] there is an article "For the Fight Against Drug Abuse." Viewers will find it of interest.

What measures are being taken? Well, first, persons using drugs are being exposed, not with the aim of punishment, but with the aim of applying measures of a medical nature to them. In general an atmosphere of condemnation and shame, I would say, in relation to persons using drugs causes secretiveness, if these people do not look for help. Here it is principle of precisely the ambulance that we need, because the illness may be profound.

Our viewer asks about uncovering the plunderers, the sellers and buyers of drugs. I must say that the internal affairs organs have stepped up the fight against them and their exposure. This year, over 10 months over 2,000 such criminals have been exposed.

Besides that work is in hand in an integrated manner on closing down the channels of acquiring and misappropriating narcotic substances, if the corresponding factories where goods are produced for medicine containing these substances are guarded, put under guard.

The fields are guarded, and at the same time areas where such shrubs as hemp grow wild are being liquidated. In general, it must be said, a broad front is being set up where necessary in individual regions to fight these phenomena.

[Voznesenskiy] What happened to these 2,000 exposed criminals? Were they put on trial?

[Zabotin] They were put on trial, in accordance with the law.

[Voznesenskiy] Fairly strict?

[Zabotin] Yes, of course.

[Several speakers talk at once]

[Bazhenov] Just a few days ago at the coordination council under the leadership of Comrade Rekunkov, USSR procurator general, we examined this question, with the participation of all leading officials of law enforcement organs of the country and interested departments such as the Ministry of Health, and the Agroindustrial Committee. This coordination conference set out specific measures, incidentally, some of these measures have already been spoken of by Boris Vailyevich. It seems to me, however, that in this we still have to wage a scrupulous, painstaking, and insistent further struggle. There is one observation aimed at science. So far our science has not developed sufficient energetic measures to seek the medical means for curing this illness.

[Voznesenskiy] Not only our science, but world science, too.

[Bazhenov] Yes, world science too, although there is much scientific research work being done on it in our country. I think that they will also help us here.

[Voznesenskiy] Is it not time to avoid judicial errors by allowing a lawyer in on a preliminary investigation from the moment charges are preferred? Boris Vasilyevich, please.

[Kravtsov] This idea is not new, and this proposal has long been examined, and discussed, so to speak, in law enforcement agencies. We have now started to discuss it in a more energetic way and begun to form specific proposals. What we are talking about in the proposals which have been drawn up, is to bring the lawyer in to participate from the moment charges are preferred. At this stage we have such a proposal. Perhaps we shall go further. So far it is at the stage of elaboration and preparation. But naturally, we must also improve the quality of defense, to insure that lawyers work better.

[Voznesenskiy] Yes, please, Sergey Ivanovich.

[Gusev] Yes, Lev Aleksandrovich. Boris Vasilyevich is right, but the lawyer is a side, so to speak, a side in the process which helps elucidate the truth, if he gives practical help by implementing in practice the principle of legality. I think that we -- and in general we in the Supreme Court think, the members of the Supreme Court and the leadership -- that it is time for us to take things a little further with the lawyers: to allow him on the case, the criminal process, either from the moment of arrest of the accused, or from the moment of charges being preferred. It can be this way and that way. The time is ripe for it, we in the Supreme Court have no delusions on this score.

[Vozensenskiy] No doubts?

[Gusev] No.

[Bazhenov] Lev Aleksandrovich, I think we should also add to what our comrades have said and tell the listeners and viewers that at the present time the lawyer is allowed in from the moment that charges are preferred in all cases involving minors, in all cases of murder, and other serious crimes. But perhaps indeed...

[Unidentified speaker] You mean we should go a bit further...

[Bazhenov] Yes, go a bit further in the democratization, so to speak, of the criminal process. I do not think that we shall lose anything from it, on the contrary, we shall gain.

[Unidentified speaker] Undoubtedly.

[Voznesenskiy] Excellent. So, comrades, a number of questions have come in concerning anonymous complaints. Deputy director, of what, it is not stated, from Zlatousov, (Yevgeniy Ivanovich Ushakov), has phoned in asking what measures are being taken to reduce or stop anonymous complaints on questions of violation of law and order and other questions. From Bryansk we have had a call from (Petr Ivanovich Ivanov), an engineer, asking how long will we deal with anonymous complaints in law enforcement agencies. From Orenburg (Valentina Alekseyevna Kalashnikova), chief of inter-city telephone exchange, asks what measures are not being taken against anonymous complainers? So, what is our attitude to anonymous complaints? Who knows? Who has a viewpoint on this?

[Two or three participants speak at once]

[Voznesenskiy] Sergey Ivanovich, please.

[Gusev] In the first place, in my view the attitude to these complaints is already fixed. Primarily, the leading official must decide whether to look into it or not. If it is a communist, then the party committee secretary must do it, and naturally the leading official of the appropriate institution and ministry.

There are all kinds of anonymous complaints which may sometimes be of interest and then the director, secretary of the party committee, say, has the power, if it concerns a communist, to decide whether to check up on it or not. On the whole, however, anonymous letters are a great evil. We have been fighting against them for a long time, but unfortunately there are still a lot of them.

[Bazhenov] He is right, of course, but anonymous complaints cannot be treated uniformly. If these anonymous complaints -- if they can be called complaints -- contain specific facts of abuse or crime, then we carry out a check on these anonymous complaints. If they contain general remarks, however, there is no reason to check on them and time is wasted.

[Voznesenskiy -- reading question] What kind of campaign is now being mounted against inveterate drunkards? They have increased in number. There is a similar question. Some comrades even doubt -- seeing on the streets individual persons, in a state of insobriety, so to speak -- whether the campaign against drunkenness and alcoholism has been slackened? This is the question I have in front of me. Yes, I did not say that the question is asked by one (Zudina) from Moscow. Boris Vasilyevich, have you slackened the war [laughs at himself for saying war instead of "campaign"] the war against drunkenness and alcoholism or not?

[Zabotin] I must say that the alarm is understandable because the positive processes engendered by the intensification of the campaign against drunkenness must be consolidated and developed. Drunkards have found ways of cheaply satisfying their requirements. They distill hooch, prepare home-brew, make wine out of juices, and drink liquids containing spirits. This somewhat complicates the situation. There is a need to direct work in the domestic sphere. As far as Moscow is concerned, this year 10 percent fewer have been brought in from public places for drunkenness than last year, but 42 percent more have been caught for speculation in spirits. As for distilling hooch, 2.5 times more have been caught. That is as far as Moscow is concerned.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs is watching the alcohol situation in the country, and is not slackening in exposing the transgressors. Administrative measures are not always effective; they sometimes strike at the family budget, and some people are only too pleased to pay the fine and get away. So, in order to rouse the public we have started sending more materials to the workers' collectives. There is a law on the workers' collectives and it should be applied. Working with the health service bodies, preventive measures, narcological aid and sending alcoholics for treatment have been stepped up.

I should add that drunkenness is still widespread, and clearly, together with the public, we must intensify our position in the campaign against it. In fact, a start has been made, but only a start in solving a big social problem.

[Sukhoruchenkova] Can I add something? Because in the campaign against drunkenness a big role is being given to the workers' collectives, trade union organizations, and the All-Union Society for the Struggle for Sobriety.

[Voznesenskiy] And, Galina Fedorovna, excuse me if I make a slight correction perhaps, that the workers' collectives have perhaps been given the decisive role. Do you agree?

[Sukhoruchenkova] You are right, Lev Aleksandrovich. The decisive role of the collective in which the drunkard works. Currently more than 13 million working people have become members of the All-Union Society for the Struggle for Sobriety. Is this many or few? Most likely, it is still not enough. Only in 70 percent of organizations, enterprises, and institutions have primary organizations of the Society for the Struggle for Sobriety been formed. I think this is insufficient. Here we obviously have to step up our work. More decisive measures should also be taken to call to account and punish people who abuse alcoholic drinks. For example, in 1986, for violations, 7,000 people were excluded from trade union membership. More than 20,000 were given deadlines to hand in their trade union cards during the exchange of trade union cards, but those are trade union measures of influence. Our comrades; courts, too, should take a more decisive position, of course. An insignificant number of cases are as yet examined in the comrades' courts to do with drunkenness and alcoholism.

I would like to say, however, that, for instance, in Moscow Oblast, 160 population centers have declared a dry law in their areas. More than 132,000 brigades have taken the pledge to completely give up spirits. There are some strikingly good examples but unfortunately there are still also many shortcomings in this work, and we still have to do some serious work on this question.

[Voznesenskiy] Comrades, some viewers, and we thank them for this, criticize our program. (Vladimir Grigoryevich Rodin) from Moscow, in one of these critical remarks, asks the participants in the program: Could you not cite examples? Who was sentenced, to how much? A few more examples, otherwise it is just theory. I do not know if one can give concrete expression to the next question as much as (Vladimir Grigoryevich) would protest, but really wherever possible, without turning it into an account of legal practice, let us try and be more specific. So, here are some questions: Many suffer from persecution for criticism, from bureaucratis, from slander, but criminal responsibility for these crimes appears to be more the exception than the rule. What will be done to revive these, there are some terrible words here, dead or half-alive laws? This is how (Petr Sergeyevich Chebanov), an engineer from Moscow, poses the question. From Debal'tsevo, (Yevgeniy Leonidovich Klimentov), deputy chief mechanic, telephones: What responsibility is borne by the author of an article of the editor of a newspaper for publication of an article containing distorted facts, causing a citizen moral outrage or denigration in the eyes of society? Comrade (Nazarov) asks: Has a law been introduced on criminal

responsibility for persecution for criticism and are there any cases of conviction of any citizen under this article? What measures are taken against a plaintiff if the complaint is unfounded -- asks [Vladimir Yulevich Mamot] from Sverdlovsk.

Comrades, what are we to do, how are we to fight for a person's good name? Regardless of whether an erroneous article is published or whether some slanderous information is conveyed to the law enforcing bodies, does a person have the right to defend his good name, and if he has, how can this be done?

[Bazhenov] Well, it can and must be implemented, Lev Aleksandrovich. If you will permit, I shall answer that question.

[Voznesenskiy, interrupting] Is there protection from persecution for criticism? Go ahead, please Nikolay Aleksandrovich.

[Bazhenov] False denunciations, slander, are held criminally liable. I am only sorry that I cannot now cite a specific example, as the comrades request. I simply cannot bring it to mind. We are, however, informed about this through our press, when people write without foundation and discredit someone. In each specific instance we investigate and resolve the question, making people criminally liable for slander. As for the organs of the press, when they -- though I should not be answering this, it should be the organs of the press who answer this -- but I know that when they commit errors, then they do acknowledge their mistakes in print. Although I will point out that this is not always done. The organs of the press should also acknowledge their mistakes and mistaken conclusions in a critical manner. I think that this would be one of the principles of observance of social justice, and it is in this that the democratic nature of our society is expressed. If you make a mistake, admit it! If the mistake is not particularly serious, then make an apology. If the mistake is crude and slanderous, however, then answer for it according to the law. This, esteemed listeners, is how we have acted and continue to act.

[Voznesenskiy] Boris Vasilyevich, over to you.

[Kravtsov] Lev Aleksandrovich, I think that this anxiety is justified in respect to the struggle against bureaucracy for bureaucracy's sake. Just this morning I was at a conference, a scientific conference; and there an interesting piece of information was quoted in a report by Academician Kudryavtsev. He said that in 60 years, not a single scientist had written a single book on this problem, so to speak; but this problem has today revealed itself quite clearly. It exists, the struggle against red tape.

[Zabotin] Incidentally, with regard to slander and false information, the author is nevertheless right, for there is no active struggle being waged against this. There is a question here: it is usually a matter of a private accusation, therefore there is indeed a question, the author rightly draws our attention to it.

[Unidentified speaker] A question for all of us.

[Gusev] That is true, I can join my colleagues there, and simply stress that in respect of the legislative norms which make it possible to refute discredit to the honor and dignity of citizens from all sorts of fabrications and rumors, this is Article 7 of the bases of the USSR Civil Legal Code. Thus, in accordance with this article, a citizen has the right to go to court to demand refutation of reports discrediting his honor and dignity. If reports discrediting honor and dignity which hurt and cast shame upon a citizen or organization are disseminated in the press, with reality be refuted. If such information is contained in a document which, for instance, is put out from an organization, if some document they issue is incorrect, (?or) a reference, then they can be obliged to replace the document. Therefore the procedure for refutation is in some cases established by a court.

[Voznesenskiy] Boris Vasilyevich, when will things be corrected in the state vehicle inspectorate, that is, in connection with its unfounded carping, extortion, rudeness, asks driver (Ivan Nikiforovich Stepanov) of Moscow. Similar to that is a question from (Leonid Aleksandrovich Mamontov), an engineer. Your answer, please.

[Zabotin] Well now, I must unfortunately admit that rudeness, abuses, and even extortion do exist, but there are few such individuals. Yet it is they who create a negative response, and discredit a collective of workers, a large collective, which day and night, in all weathers, carry out an important and serious duty. We expose them ourselves, and at a signal from working people, and we act without compromise. I ought to point out that last year, about 1,000 state vehicle inspectorate staff were sacked for such negative manifestations. A system of cadre selection has now been introduced for this service, on the recommendation of collectives, preliminary checking on candidates, probation of young folk who have distinguished themselves in service, and training in the best traditions. Systematic control of administrative practice has been instituted: We even use technology in order to find out the truth of how a state vehicle inspectorate worker spoke to an offender.

Nevertheless, conflicts with the state vehicle inspectorate are less often due to carping fault-finding, less often; and more often to violations. Disregard of the traffic regulations incurs grave consequences. I should say that in Moscow, 444 people have died in 10 months as a consequence of this. It is worth thinking about that. The Ministry of Internal Affairs is indeed correcting things. I should like to turn to drivers, and in particular to drivers of private transport. Do not succumb to temptation and to impermissible methods: the official who grants an indulgence in these instances is abusing his official position; but the one who resorts to tips to avoid liability is conniving in this and is acting immorally. So let's eradicate this evil together, as the saying goes.

[Voznesenskiy] Yes, and all the more so in that it is in the common interests, in the interest of saving the lives of thousands and thousands of citizens in our country, who become the victims of accidents and other violations, so to speak, of road transport incidents.

Galina Fedorovna, what is your view, perhaps your personal view, on a question such as this from (Vladimir Sergeyevich Pechernikov): In the press we often come across a report that some defective product or other which has inflicted damage to the state on a grand scale, incurs a cut of 30, 50 or some other percentage in the bonus award. Can one really pay for defective output by bonus awards at all, even a part of them?

[Sukhoruchenkova] Well now, I have answered at some length on this.

[Voznesenskiy] Yes, here a reply containing more detail is needed.

[Sukhoruchenkova] Well, bonuses for high-quality output, and nonpayment of bonuses if the output is defective; and for defective output, increments are not paid in certain branches of industry, as I have already said, professional grades are lowered; and the systems of incentives through the material incentives fund -- the output of defective products is a heavy burden on the entire collective, the material incentives fund is reduced accordingly, and the payment of bonuses in accordance with the regulations.

[Voznesenskiy] Galina Fedorovna, literally this minute I have been brought a question coming from (Konstantin Ivanovich Kononenko) from Gelendzhik. On what basis are bonuses increased by 20 percent for output of good-quality products, while they are reduced slightly for defective output? It seems to me that no incentives should be necessary for manufacturing good-quality output. Well, I shall not ask you to reply to this right now, I simply want to say that this question is one of concern to comrades; and perhaps we shall in the near future hold a program like this, get together a round table, precisely on the question of output quality. I think that then we shall be able to reply to this sort of question in more detail.

[Sukhoruchenkova] I should just like one moment to say...

[Voznesenskiy] Please go ahead, Galina Fedorovna...

[Sukhoruchenkova]...that comrades should take account of the fact that now the bonus award system and the incentive system should be worked out at enterprises, with the participation of the trade union organizations. One of the important points in this matter is indeed that of quality. Of course, manufacture of defective output should not be given incentives, that is clear.

[Voznesenskiy] Excellent. Boris Vasilyevich, here is a question for you, perhaps you will go on. It is known that legal advice services in the country are accommodated in bad premises. Can you say what will be done to improve this. Do help: One is ashamed to receive people in such buildings. (Mayis Kuliyeovich Mamedov), candidate of juridical sciences,

telephones from Baku. Just when we were preparing for this program, literally the other day, in IZVESTIYA, I think I found a small but substantive column relating that the population is increasingly in acute need of qualified legal advice lawyers and of advice service staff: this described how there are long queues, a shortage of lawyer cadres and so forth. So perhaps, getting away from (Mayis Kuliyeovich's) question about premises, we could say a few words about legal aid to the population. Over to you.

[Kravtsov] This is how I would answer that question, although it is not so simple or easy. I have had occasion to travel on business to organs of justice, I have visited also legal consultations, including such as are described in this question to us. Unfortunately, yes, there are such legal consultations, and this is a serious problem. It worries us, it concerns us. And it is not just causing concern -- we are taking measures. The measures are being taken first and foremost locally. Local organs must display the due concern for advocacy and about legal consultations and for creating the necessary conditions for work. We are responsible for ensuring that the proper staff is available, that there are no queues, that everything in legal consultations is well and clearly organized. The overall leadership of the advocacy lies with the Ministry of Justice. That is quite right. But I think that we have already spoken about a decision by the party Central Committee, and that this decision will provide a certain serious and firm impulse to ensure that locally this question receives more attention and eliminates this problem.

[Voznesenskiy] Yes, but not only in the area where we have already spoken, the area of location, facilities, but in all respects, and primarily from the viewpoint of ensuring that the people's requirements for legal help, for legal consultations are satisfied more fully. Evidently this problem is fairly serious, if only because it is clear that there are either insufficient cadres, or they are being used insufficiently effectively.

[Unidentified speaker] I quite agree with you.

[Voznesenskiy] We need to find ways of solving this problem not in the remote future, but in the near future.

[Kravtsov] Much here depends on the USSR Ministry of Justice, on ministries of justice of union republics, on departments of justice and on the court organs.

[Voznesenskiy] Fine. Well, here we have some criticism, directed at me, moreover, from a teacher at an institute, Terentyev, from Magnitogorsk. Comrade Terentyev called to say this: Why has Voznesenskiy, sitting at the roundtable, retreated from the question of legal literature? Perhaps the law enforcement agencies are interested in restricted editions of legal literature? After all, it is virtually impossible to buy legal literature. Obviously, Boris Vasilyevich, this reply and the question I posed to you, and your reply were insufficiently full, perhaps?

[Kravtsov] The question was posed very correctly, and this is indeed a thorny question, because legal literature is in short supply. There are not enough, not only for non-professional lawyers, but also for professional lawyers. For example, last year the labor law was published in a million copies, but this edition was clearly insufficient for everyone who should use it to be able to use it. The ministry of Justice, I must say, has taken the initiative and has raised the matter with the State Publishing Committee, and a future plan has been outlined providing for an increase in number of copies of legal literature. But I think that this problem will hardly be resolved and eliminated. I want specially to say that in 1988 and 1990 it is planned to publish for citizens 500,000 copies of a legal handbook specially for the population, which will be republished regularly. These are some intentions for solving the problem in the interim.

[Voznesenskiy] Thank you. How can we raise the effectiveness of the work of the voluntary people's militia? Is it advisable to put women on duty? This is asked by Yelena Vlasova, of the journalistic department at Leningrad University.

[Zabotin] This is understandable. They are my fellow-countrymen.

[Voznesenskiy] Mine, too.

[Zabotin] What can be said? The activity of these public formations with the aim of keeping order are organized by the local soviets of people's deputies. And the internal affairs organs, both the administration and departments of executive committees naturally assist the organization of this work of the people's militia. The main thing is to use the help. Insofar as it is considerable, I shall quote some data. There are 1.2 million people's militia members in the country. Each day 425,000 go out on to the streets and in public places. And to be blunt, for the 11 percent reduction of crime on the streets and in public places, in particular this year, we are obliged to a large extent to the people's militia members for this. The effectiveness of the work of volunteer people's militia depends to a great extent, of course, on legal training, acquiring practical skills and improving forms of this activity. The internal affairs organs are engaged in this to the hilt. As for women, of course, we take them, but their help cannot always be utilized. Men are naturally more desirable. Now about raising effectiveness: We see in the future a strengthening of interaction, searching for the best forms of joint work, including with some services as combating the misappropriation of socialist property and speculation the misappropriation of socialist property and speculation, and in criminal investigation, because militia members often help not only prevent but also to uncover crimes. That is what I can reply to my fellow-countrywoman.

[Voznesenskiy] Good. Who, and when, will stop red tape in applying the law on inventions? -- Engineer Yuriy Ivanovich Zinkovich. Who wants to reply, comrades? How is work going on legislation on inventions? Boris Vasilyevich?

[Kravtsov] Well, I can only say that we are actively participating in this work. But there is still a long way to go, so to speak, before this work is completed -- at least it is not near. I think that next year the appropriate normative act will be adopted. It is a complex problem, it is not a simple question.

[Gusev] Yes, I can confirm, Lev Aleksandrovich, that it is an extremely complicated problem, because we came up against it at the plenum of the USSR Supreme Court on 15 November 1984, and we adopted a decision aimed at easing in some way the situation in solving disputes until the law comes out. And we designated the use by courts of legislation regulating relations arising in connection with discoveries, inventions, rationalizing proposals and industrial models. It was adopted in accordance with Article 116 of the fundamental civil law. I think that for the period until the law is adopted -- and this was also spoken of at the plenum, that such a law is needed, and I agree with that -- we shall probably revise and change the current decision in accordance with the law which will be adopted on that score.

[Voznesenskiy] Sergey Ivanovich, although you have given a good answer to that question, I have managed to hand you some question on pilferers. Perhaps you can also answer that question.

[Kravtsov] I have in my hand a plan preparing USSR state enactments and a decision of the USSR government, and proposals for improving USSR legislation for 1986-90. This plan has been approved by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and Council of Ministers of the USSR. The plan envisages that the USSR law on discoveries, inventions and licenses must be adopted in the second half of 1986.

[Voznesenskiy] Excellent. Sergey Ivanovich, what about pilferers?

[Gusev] This question is asked by Comrade Victor Petrovich Belbikov, a pensioner from Moscow city. Esteemed Viktor Petrovich, I have to say that unfortunately there are still a lot of so-called pilferers and petty thieves. I shall quote a figure: over the past 5 years there were 954,000 people were called to account under administrative law alone -- any they are generally called to account under administrative law. This is an astronomical figure, and even for the 5-year period, it is still very great. He asks why the law of 7 August 1936 is not used against them. Well, he is evidently a person of the older generation. The law of 7 August 1936 no longer operates. Afterwards the law of 4 June 1947 was adopted, which was almost the same as the previous law, only in another time, and it did not have, as is evident, the appropriate effect. In general, to put it briefly, we have not yet conquered economic crime, we have not conquered it because we have many shortcomings of all sorts, including in the sphere of the economy, which was mentioned at the 27 congress of our party. I should like to say even more: in general misappropriations have also increased over the 5-year period, and quite considerably. I have already said, or written, rather, on this topic and I have stated the percentage in TRUD, when I wrote on this problem -- our growth rate is 39 percent overall in convictions for misappropriations. That is why this problem of course is worrying -- little things are more worrying than big ones.

[Zabotin] I should like to add to what Sergey Ivanovich said. As well as measures of an administrative and legal nature, we must look very seriously at the other aspect -- economic measures. In an investigation of enterprises which are very subject to petty pilfering, mainly the agroindustrial complex, we become convinced that there is no protection provided; that is many loopholes are exploited by pilferers, and they must be stopped, and so far there is insufficient demand put on the economic side. So at present a lot of people have to be charged and this phenomenon indeed has a widespread nature today.

[Gusev] Yes, by the way, on the second point on this matter he says that we are not strongly combating leading officials and communists who cook the books and engage in theft and so on. But I would not say that this is so, because it is precisely against the leading officials and communists -- I quoted examples here -- that we are fighting very strictly, especially recently. All are equal before the law. Of course, in the latest decision of the party's Central Committee it is said absolutely, very precisely that a communist leading official bears a double responsibility, both as a communist and as a leading official. And this is rightly stressed once again. But returning to this, I wish to say that communists in our country who fall within the field of vision of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the procuracy and the USSR Supreme Court, have to face what the decision of the Party's Central Committee says: strict liability, criminal proceedings, not only party proceedings but also criminal proceedings.

[Voznesenskiy] Anna Semenovna Remicheva informs us as follows and asks: How is the struggle -- I would rather say, work, probably would be better to say that here -- being waged against difficult juveniles? We live and have no peace. They drink and smoke in entrance vestibules. Music rings out. Some 25 of them gather. Every day we call out the militia to disperse them. I have been going to the inspector myself. These juveniles are known to the militia but they can't do anything with them. This very much worries everybody living in this block of apartments. What are we to do? Where are we to turn?

Angelina Stepanovna Ivanova, as a member of a parents' committee in a school, asks: What rights does a school have in connection with those juveniles who do not attend lessons for a long time without good reasons?

Engineer Natalya Ivanova Matveyeva: What punitive measures are being applied against negligent parents and will they be made more stringent?

[Zabotin] Whom should one turn to? I'll tell you whom. First of all, naturally, to the precinct inspector. For this reason, they are called upon to tackle this large set of questions on safeguarding law and order in a town district. Well, we are now taking measures to seriously improve the work of precinct inspectors. Because it has to be said outright, and the minister noted this at the collegium, the standard of work which is now organized does not suit us. Proposals are being studied to improve it. Well, first precinct inspector required an appropriate training. Therefore the base is being widened. We will train precinct

inspectors with higher education, we will broaden their legal status, that is to say we will raise the question of this and I think that we will be met half-way because precinct inspectors have many responsibilities but essentially have no powers at all. Hence then the inefficiency of this work. Moreover, we are of course examining other measures, too, aimed first of all at the precinct inspector, and of course, also at the internal affairs inspectorates for juvenile affairs.

[Voznesenkiy] Good! Is it compulsory to carry out the comments on the codes? This is asked by Vyacheslav Konstantinovich Polezhayev. Please, Nikolay Aleksandrovich.

[Bazhenov] Undoubtedly learned comments should not be ignored, because they are based on practice. But in the application of the law one should, nevertheless, follow the interpretations of the plenums of the supreme courts and in particular of the plenum of the USSR Supreme Court and of the plenums of the supreme courts of the union republics. This is how I would answer this question. And it can also be added that learned comments are of very great assistance to novice practical workers. He goes carefully into things and deepens his knowledge, comparing all this with the practice of his work.

[Voznesenkiy] Boris Vasilyevich, in connection with the change over to the new conditions of management, is it planned to perfect the work of the legal services of enterprises and in what context? At present, lawyer-economists [Yuristy-Khozyastvenniki] essentially have no legal rights -- Senior jurisconsult of the communications directorate from Karaganda, Vladimir Nikolayevich Polozhentsev. What is the situation of the lawyer-economics in an enterprise? Are there any prospects of raising his status, his importance and activity?

[Voznesenkiy] Yes. Look how interesting this is. Sergey Yevgenyevich Loginov, a lawyer, has also just phoned in with the following information: At the beginning of the broadcast the legal illiteracy of leading officials was mentioned, and in these conditions it is objectively necessary to raise the role of the legal services, he says. That is to say evidently this idea is worrying many comrades. And I would like to say in this connection that obviously the role of a lawyer-economist, that is to say a lawyer working directly at an enterprise, must now objectively be very substantially raised in connection with the development of the system itself of economic ties and relations, the changeover of enterprises and associations to self-financing, complete financial autonomy, when there will be increasing ties which are being directly established in the national economy -- even though as part of the plan -- but at the same time being directly established between enterprises and associations and sectors of the national economy. So that here life simply will evidently force us somehow to raise seriously the role of legal experts in connection with the deepening, I would say, with the utilization of economic levers in the national economy.

[Kravtsov] Life itself forces this upon us.

[Voznesenkiy] Yes.

[Kravtsov] Provision of legal services must be qualified. This is without doubt.

[Voznesenkiy] Yes, please.

[Bazhenov] The trouble is also that certain leading officials do not display an elementary level of culture, essentially do not consult their legal adviser. And the lawyer-economists do not always themselves display initiative in this matter. For this reason certain balance should operate here. This will be a more correct approach when both the lawyer and the economic planner [Khozyastvennik] find their place in tackling questions.

[Voznesenkiy] Comrades, I don't know whether we can still add something to the question I wish to read out, which has just reached us from Tashkent. Strictly speaking it is not even a question, but a statement. We have spoken about this. But it seems too that this is a question which requires some additional input perhaps on our part. This is asked by Mariya Vasilyevna Vakhrusheva, an economist: the workers of the law enforcement bodies are falling under the influence of local soviet and party bodies which do not always permit legality to be applied to offenders. What is being done in this respect?

I think that essentially you have already spoken about this. I simply draw your attention to the fact that questions of such kind are continuing to come in and it seems that a consistent implementation of the recently adopted decision of the party Central Committee about guarding citizens' rights, defending their interests and strengthening socialist legality gives us additional grounds for applying more consistently the full force of Soviet law, which first of all is in your hands, the hands of law enforcement bodies. If there are no objections we will consider this. Yes, please.

[Voznesenkiy] Please, please, that is exactly what is needed.

[Kravtsov] A small illustration, perhaps?

[Kravtsov] The other day I talked to a people's judge from Kalmykia and inquired precisely about this question: How is the principle of the independence of the judge, a constitutional principle enshrined in the constitution, being implemented in Kalmykia. He gave me a very good answer. He said you have to be firm in upholding the law, and you have to be honest. He put it very well and very concisely, and he has been working for 8 years in a People's Court. He said he did not have any such problems. It is very important to educate people in that kind of spirit.

[Noznesenskiy] Yes, Galina Fedorovna, I handed you a number of questions. Pick one of them, please.

[Sukhoruchenkova] I have what is I think an interesting question which may interest many people. Valentin Mikhaylovich Sakhorov, an engineer from Kaliningrad, Moscow Oblast, asks: 'Is any change planned in the provision of pensions, and if so, when and what kind?'

As you know, the decision has been taken to draft a new law on the provision of pensions. At the present time the labor committee, jointly with the AUCCTU and other interested organizations, has started doing the conceptual work on the new pensions law. This will take a certain amount of time, and in a couple of years, maybe less, these proposals will be submitted and later on they will be debated. So it is planned to adopt a new law.

And a second question: When will the militia or other bodies start work on applying measures to safeguard the state housing fund: against damage to elevator doors, walls, lamps, etc.? I find this question, for me at any rate, raises a smile. Most probably the safeguarding of the housing fund is the affair of the tenants themselves, the citizens themselves, and not the militia bodies, and educative work with those -- teenagers, I think -- who damage lamps and elevator doors, and so on. That is how I would answer that question. Although, on the whole, everyone should keep order.

[Noznesenskiy] Boris Vasilyevich, your questions and answers.

[Zabotin] A question from Comrade Vasilyev, a retired colonel living in Moscow: What measures are to be taken to stop the stealing of gasoline or diesel fuel? Well, esteemed Comrade Vasilyev, you know that in 1983 a government resolution was adopted, together with a number of legislative acts to step up the campaign against stealing fuels and lubricants. This is a broad and deeply thought-out resolution for solving the problems and many aspects of it are already being implemented. There are complications which provide room for the stealing and illicit distribution of gasoline. This is mainly in rural areas where this problem has not yet been solved but in the long term it is clearly envisaged and deadlines have been determined.

So much has been done, and a criterion of the fact that there are already some results here is the increase in the sale of gasoline from market stocks, which we did not see several years ago. This is a positive process. A campaign is being waged and stealing, false accounting, the operation of transport facilities with unrectified speedometers, and other violations. I dare make the assurance that the campaign is not being slackened, but the problem of ensuring the safeguarding of fuels and lubricants remains acute, and, Comrade Vasilyev, you are right to display concern.

[Noznesenskiy] Comrades, there is what I consider an extraordinarily important question from Engineer Vladimir Sergeyevich Petyerov: 'Departmental instructions and resolutions by local authorities limit, not always justifiably, the rights of citizens, for example hotel regulations, and regulations for the exchange of substandard goods. Here he cites specific resolutions of the Moscow gorispolkom on age limits and regulations concerning the behavior of football supporters. 'Is it not time to issue a law on enactments defining the powers regulating publication?' This refers to publications in the press and public debate. So, this concerns all-state law and departmental and local instructions and so on. Bylaws, is that what they should be called?

[Kravtsov] Lev Aleksandrovich, a resolution of the Party Central Committee puts it very well: It is required that due order be put into endorsement of instructions and publications of orders of a law-enforcing nature, conformity of departmental acts of existing legislation is guaranteed, that obsolete clauses be reviewed at the appropriate time.

Clear and concise. But the question was quite rightly posed and rightly worries the author of the question. At a scientific conference today, incidentally, this was dealt with and similar concern was expressed.

[Noznesenskiy] I get the impression, Boris Vasilyevich, from studying the resolution of the Central Committee, that, if one can put it this way, it sets very serious work on a fundamentally new level for all law-enforcement bodies. But at the same time it also sets definite tasks for us all as citizens, tasks for the strictest observance of Soviet law not only by the law-enforcement bodies, which must be accepted as a matter of course, but also by us, as ordinary citizens, as those whose interests this law protects but only if we ourselves observe it.

[Sukhoruchenkova] Lev Aleksandrovich, the trade unions and the legal and technical inspectorate of trade unions are also set great tasks for the protection of the interests of the working people. This is what completely answers the protective function of the Soviet trade unions, and we plan to step up, and are now drafting measures to step up the activity of the legal technical inspectorate. We have a fairly big army: 6,500 technical inspectors and nearly 1,000 legal inspectors.

[Voznesenkiy] And have you any approximate, at any rate, figures and facts that you can quote concerning the effectiveness of this work?

[Sukhoruchenkova] Certainly, in 1985 the trade unions' technical inspectorate of labor fined 75,500 persons who were directors of various levels, and dismissed 9,927 persons, and over 5,000 persons were called to criminal account at the submission of the trade unions' technical inspectorate of labor. And the legal inspectorate carries out much work as regards observance of labor legislation and explanatory work and preventive work.

[Voznesenkiy] Good. Boris Vasilyevich, among your numerous questions there are some very interesting ones. Answer one of them, the one you'd like to answer first of all.

[Kravtsov] I think Comrade Aleksandr Nikolayevich Novikov from Moscow posed his question very correctly. He asks: Will there be any change in the criminal code? He goes on: Are not some clauses obsolete? He means clauses in the code. Will the work of investigating crimes be simplified?

Well, it is not a simple question. This is how I'd answer it. Criminal legislation, like other branches of legislation, needs perfecting. I think I will have the support of my jurist colleagues present here, and nonjurists, too? Very good, thanks. I can say that work is now planned and will be actively carried out to prepare new basic criminal legislation and draft codes of union republics, criminal codes of union republics. So much for the first question. And now about the investigation of crimes: Will the work be simplified? Comrade Novikov asks.

This is what I would say: Our forms of criminal court proceedings vary a great deal. There is preliminary investigation of certain crimes. There is the inquiry. Well, how does the inquiry differ from preliminary investigation? It differs mainly in the lesser volume of investigative action. That is how one could put it, in schedules. There is also the so-called protocol form, which brings us to simplification. This protocol form is conducted in this way: A protocol is compiled on obvious crimes which do not require either inquiry or investigation.

But it is important to stress one fundamental point: whatever form the investigation takes, for each case the truth must definitely and undisputably be established, so that the guilty party is established, and in no case must an innocent person be arraigned. That is how I would answer that question.

[Voznesenkiy] Sergey Ivanovich, go ahead.

[Gusev] Here are some interesting questions from Vilyams Adolfovich Nikitin war veteran from Moscow and from Nurse Aleksandra Grigoryevna Zhukova. They are about the questions of openness in the activity of our institutions and law enforcement bodies. The first question is this: Why in our state is there no practice of passing acquittal judgements? Well I must say first in a word that this is not so. There is such a practice. To back up what I say, I shall cite some figures: This year 363 acquittal judgements were passed? Court cases against over 2,000 persons were dismissed, and cases against more than 100,000 were amended or sentences were commuted to a reduction in the term of punishment or reclassification. So, I would like to say that the bodies of the Procurator's Office, of Justice, of internal affairs and of the courts and supreme court, are here guarding legality and whenever there comes into our field of vision a case when we see [words indistinct] an acquittal is definitely passed or the case is dismissed.

So much for the first question. And the second: People connected with justice have recently formed the opinion that the law enforcement bodies have slackened the struggle against burglary and robbery, because they are distracted by cases of official crime. But I would not say we have distracted diverted by one thing and are paying attention to something else. We give equal attention to everything. What can be said about theft? Well, first of all, citizens' personal property is protected by our constitution and is protected by the justice bodies. That is a constitutional principle. The fact is, theft of personal property has always been in the economic category, and now in conditions of socialism it has undergone some transformation, if you like. In this sense, now when a person has something stolen from him -- I'll put it simply -- and suffers some kind of disaster in this respect, then the state -- society -- helps him all the same, it has to, from its funds and so on, so that the person is not plunged into disaster. I'm talking about it from the position of the economic category because the state's overall combined product is spent on this.

On the whole, however, this problem is correctly brought up. It is now a big problem for the state. Primarily I must say that this category of crime stands in the first place in the structure of criminality and convictions. Well, the rate of detection of these crimes still does not satisfy us entirely, because many crimes go undetected, and naturally citizens are not compensated for the appropriate damage, which should be made good.

So, all of us, the ministry -- Boris Vasilyevich joins me in this -- would agree, and the procurator's office and the court institutions, too, that special attention must be paid to this category of case, in the sense of rate of detection, warning of detection and strict punishment, because here there are special categories of citizens, many of them recidivists, and various groups. They are a danger to society.

[Zabotin] I would like to add that really the problem of burglary is an acute one and we are now carrying out what I would call very serious and effective measures. It would take a long time to list them, and there is no need to do so here. I just want to remind you that we are now stepping up the work of guarding citizens' apartments -- not many so far: 357,000. But our viewers ought to know that payment for guarding will be R1 cheaper for us from 1 January, so there are prospects for a serious reduction. And at the same time I want to give you some information: During the course of this year there were only 157 attempts on these 357,000 apartments, while 137 thieves were caught on the spot. That is how effective these measures are.

But here we should add that the thieves are pandered to by buyers on the look-out for a bargain, and the criminals adapt themselves, they take a fur hat here and some jewelry there which can be sold quickly. I do not know of any examples of citizens reporting such incidents to the militia, so the question arises of displaying active civic positions, because these deals are immoral and moreover, there is a criminal law providing for accountability for knowingly acquiring stolen goods, and this must not be forgotten either.

[Voznesenkiy] Good. Nikolay Aleksandrovich, please.

[Bazhenov] Listener Emma Martveyevna Sivorova from Moscow asks the following question: How did the story of the robbery of the Molodezhnyy department store end?

I would clarify the question. It was not robbery of the Molodezhnyy store but an attack on the cash collectors. The case is now being investigated. The persons who perpetrated the crime have all been arrested, and will suffer the punishment they deserve. So, the case will come to court before long.

Engineer Boris Petrovich Smirnov from the town of Stavropol, asks this question: Do the procurators respond correctly to citizens' complaints when they give them stereotyped answers? Esteemed Boris Petrovich, if stereotyped answers are given by our people that in effect do not contain an answer to the questions which have been asked, our people are acting incorrectly. In every specific case we endeavor to correct our people, and when we receive a similar complaint we provide a specific and convincing answer as to why the suggestions presented by the complainant in his letter are not being adopted.

Filimonov, a pensioner from Leozersk, House 3a-121, poses this question: A recent address by Comrade Afanasyev, the editor of PRAVDA, in our press admits that underground millionaires exist in our country. Surely the USSR procuracy and the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs could expose these underground millionaires and take measures against them as prescribed by the law. Comrade Filimonov, we are certainly working on these issues -- both the USSR procuracy and the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs -- and let us say outright that these are some of the main issues undermining the economy of the Soviet state, when funds are amassed through unscrupulous actions. Whether it be embezzlement or whether it be bribery, or speculation, we have not of course relaxed our attention. Indeed, Boris Vasilyevich has taken the trouble to cite specific examples. That is to say, we have not relaxed and are not relaxing our attention to the question of combating the embezzlement of socialist property, by which means these millionaires are created. On the contrary, we are exposing them. Indeed some comrades have been reproaching us with the idea that we have let up on these matters. But no, we have not let up on these matters. We must cauterize, as it were, the various kinds of embezzlers, bribe-takers and speculators and instill the proper order in this matter.

[Zabotin] Nikolay Aleksandrovich!

[Bazhenov] Yes, please go ahead.

[Zabotin] I should like to add to what Nikolay Aleksandrovich was saying. If, one takes bribes, for instance, human nature is such that the criminals work on the basis that the deal remains secret. Is that not so? Well, this solidarity hampers the eradication of this wrongdoing. But the law says that, if there is a case of a soliciting of bribes and if the one who

has given a bribe immediately gives information about this to the law-enforcement bodies, then he is freed of criminal blame. One would therefore wish that citizens would take up what I would describe as a proper stance on this.

[Voznesenkiy] That is, those same civic stances without which no law in any country -- especially a socialist country -- can exist at all.

[Zabotin] Yes, yes.

[Voznesenkiy] Comrades, there are a number of important questions which we shall perhaps have time to answer. For instance: It is essential to expand the staff of people's assessors, since this issue has already taken a positive direction in our country -- this is from Valentin Vasilyevich Yakovlev from Moscow. Who is able to say how scientific and managerial thinking is moving on this, is it moving in this direction?

[Kravtsov] I can say only that thinking has diverged on this. Some are of the opinion that there is no need to increase the number of people's assessors; and there are, of course, other points of view on this issue. If you ask me, I have worked both as a judge and procurator, I can say that two people's assessors are sufficient: but real judges, competent judges, these are what we must train and select to the function of people's assessors, people like that, worthy, respected people who would be able to investigate in both criminal and civil matters, people of authority, wise with experience of life -- that's the problem.

[Voznesenkiy] Boris Vasilyevich, you have raised...

[Kravtsov interrupting] Incidentally, pardon me, the fact is that next year elections of judges and of people's assessors as well will take place. And we are now making serious preparations for this work, very serious preparations, with the intention of selecting this category of people as people's assessors.

[Voznesenkiy] Are there any more observations on this matter?

[Gusev] No, Boris Vasilyevich said everything quite rightly. There is just one thing I should like to add, namely that when the assessors are elected, they should undergo compulsory training. There should be juridical training, because it is difficult without this, and you inculcate some sort of activity, because it's awkward when you are presiding, and it should not be the case that someone has to incite you to take action. They should act themselves, all the more so in that theirs is the first word, whilst the judge has the last word. Their activity should be more lofty.

[Bazhenov] Lev Aleksandrovich, just today at the plenum of the Supreme Court, I devoted particular attention in my speech to this matter, that those elected as people's assessors should be experienced and worldlywise people. And when they are elected, then it is necessary to work with them, give tuition to ensure that they have mastery of some elementary juridical knowledge.

[Voznesenkiy] But can it be considered -- I must return to the question asked -- can it be considered that the question of the number of people's accessors has already been resolved, because Boris Vailyevich has shared his experience: Each of those sitting here, except for us, has his own experience in this regard -- oh yes, and except for Galina Fedorovna, evidently -- yes, well, evidently this question is nevertheless not so simple, and perhaps it requires some sort of additional study. What do you think, Boris Vasilyevich, do you agree.

[Kravtsov] I don't reject that suggestion.

[Voznesenkiy] That is, you have shared your experience in the case in question. Will a law be introduced on penalties for unprintable bad language. This is currently being disseminated everywhere for all to hear, and the most dreadful thing is that children are becoming infected with this.

[Bazhenov] There is such a law in force, it is applied, of course. The same as for hooliganism.

[Voznesenkiy] We shall not require you to mention specifically persons who have been brought to account on these grounds.

And another very important question: is it planned in the near future -- oh, yes, by the way, I apologize, Anna Yevgeniyevna Gromova, a pensioner from Moscow, posed that question.

Yak Tomovich Tupakov, an engineer from Mytishchi, asks: is it planned in the near future to prosecute persons officially responsible, so to speak, for the preservation of cultural and ancient monuments. Similar sorts of questions relating to protection of our cultural heritage have been asked by other people writing in. What is the thinking in this regard?

[Kravtsov] Well, there is a law on this, there are certain regulations, legal regulations. As for how things are in practice -- the prosecutor could perhaps tell about that.

[Voznesenkiy] Can you expand on this a little, at least. Are the organs of the prosecutor's office devoting more attention to this issue, which is one worrying the public?

[Bazhenov] This is a big and serious question. I think that Boris Vasilyevich Zabotin and I should do a little more work in this respect.

[Zabotin] I should add that, of course, where any misappropriations and thefts from museums are concerned, the Ministry of Internal Affairs immediately takes control and renders assistance, and we strive to find these things and discover such thefts. But Nikolay Aleksandrovich rightly says that there are things to be brought about here.

[Bazhenov] Yes, there's a lot more work to be done.

[Voznesenkiy] I think, too, comrades, that this question should be posed more broadly. Life poses it in practice. That is, what is at issue is that we should preserve our national property, our history, so to speak, historic monuments, monuments of the culture of our fatherland. This should at some point be linked with the alarm felt among the Soviet public, too, over ecological questions, which have up to now been partly pushed aside for the sake of immediate economic and specific production results -- although there is a need for all this to be weighed very seriously, not only from the economic and management point of view, but also, of course, from the point of view of what we shall leave to future generations. And here, too, probably, the law and order enforcement organs, the custodians of our law, should also, probably, have fairly weighty words to say at some stage, and perhaps in the not too distant future.

[Unidentified speaker] I think there are questions for the mass information.

[Voznesenkiy] Without doubt, without doubt. But incidentally, what I have just said is based precisely upon the practice of the mass information media, which are currently indeed drawing our common attention to these problems.

Comrades, we have come to the end of our broadcast. I must say that it has been, for me at least, somewhat unusual today, because we received during the course of the program a number of criticisms to the effect that some of the questions, or rather the answers we gave, did not receive, I would say, a sufficiently specific reply, from the point of view of our esteemed television viewers. This refers to anonymous complaints, persecution for criticism, defamation and so forth. So, all these questions will be summarized and transmitted to you, as always, in our programs and you will see which questions our television viewers wanted to draw your attention to in more detail.

In conclusion, I should like to say that our topic is inexhaustible, in contrast to the time, which has already run out; and that the foundations of Soviet democracy and socialist law and order were, as is known, laid down in our country by Vladimir Ilich Lenin. Socialism is impossible without democracy, Vladimir Ilich wrote. Victorious socialism must necessarily engender full democracy, he considered. Vladimir Ilich taught that democracy is in the final analysis defined by the level of development of social production; and in its turn, the development of democracy directly and immediately facilitates the development of social production, and in our conditions, that means in the final analysis, also the people's standard of living and strengthening of the economic might of our state. And it was he, Vladimir Ilich, who fought for the development by all possible means of Soviet democracy and for the most strict observance of socialist legality, and who stressed that democracy and discipline, rights and obligations, are two sides of a single whole, that the strictest observance of Soviet laws, of Soviet power, by the law enforcement organs as well as by every one of our citizens are concepts which are not only mutually linked but also mutually dependent.

It is to be hoped that in the light of our program today we have reflected once again upon these Leninist formulations. When I say "we", I mean, of course, all us Soviet people, all our television viewers and participants in the program, of course. Thank you for taking part in this program, to you our guests, and to you, our television viewers. All the best!

SOCIAL ISSUES

ETHICS, MORAL CRIME, SOCIAL EQUALITY DISCUSSED

Tbilisi KOMMUNIST GRUZII in Russian No 9, Sep 86 (signed to press 29 Aug 86)
pp 8-11

[Article by Gerontiy Georgiyevich Shushanashvili, head of the Ethics Department of the Georgian Academy of Sciences Institute of Philosophy, candidate of philosophical sciences: "For Purity of Life"]

[Text] The program documents of the 27th CPSU Congress have placed many urgent problems before social scientists. Among them is the demand for a closer connection with life and analysis of concrete vital phenomena, which relates directly to all the social sciences, including Marxist-Leninist ethics. By its nature it is not separated and cannot be separated from social life. But acceleration of the social and economic development of our society sets us the task of a new interpretation of the interrelations between ethics and life, of ensuring that ethical studies and moral-indoctrinational work are highly concrete. We must see to it that theory is more closely tied to the social and political experience of the masses, for, as Comrade M. S. Gorbachev noted at the 27th CPSU Congress, "In the interconnection between advanced ideas and the practice of constructing the new society, socialist ideology draws its energy and effectiveness."

The improvement of life and fighting for its purity is one of the most important tasks of ethics, and at the same time ethics itself is a profoundly ethical activity. After all, we are talking about exposing the darker aspects of life and affirming high spiritual values. For the fight against vices, we need not only knowledge of the matter and principles, but also great circumspection and tact. In exposing moral crimes, we must not limit ourselves (as sometimes occurs in the pages of our press) to fixation of the elementary positions of Marxist philosophy, that a criminal or immoral act was defined by the conditions of social life: for example, that a school did not take the necessary trouble about a young person, that his parents spoiled him, that he fell under bad influence, and so forth. Of course, there are no effects without causes. But such an explanation can lead an intelligent reader to an incorrect conclusion: this crime was inevitable. Consequently, it remains completely unexplained why one criminal (immoral) act or another was committed, what goals the criminal was advancing, and so forth. Referring merely to desire (for example, the striving to have more money, and so forth) does not save the situation, since at the foundation of every human desire, there lies

some goal or other, more or less conscious. It is the objective goal which is advanced by the behavior which can say something about the moral and immoral aspects of the action.

The 27th CPSU Congress stressed attention to individual work with people as an extremely important form of indoctrination. Society consists of individual people, who have their individual interests, their own ideas about life, and a system of values. It is true that definite attention is being focused on individual work in the sphere of indoctrination, but even here, as noted at the congress, the "wholesale" approach is becoming a serious obstacle. The essential shortcoming of this is the fact that in the sea of figures and "ranges" it is possible to lose the living individual: behind the statistics it is difficult to distinguish the honest, unselfish worker who is worthy of public recognition from the person who harbors an antisocialist code of ethics. In order for this not to occur, maximum specificity is necessary in the field of indoctrination. It is necessary to take into account all the specific characteristics of the environment in which the indoctrinational activity is being carried out.

In connection with this, the problems of professional ethics becomes still more urgent, as a science which is fairly weakly developed in our country. It is sufficient to say that people are still seriously arguing about whether professional morality exists or not. If it does not, then professional ethics is impossible as well. But if an individual morality exists, if every individual has a unique concept of good and evil, then why can't members of one professional group or another have their own moral rules, norms and principles? If the position that people are the product of their environment is true, then ipso facto it stands to reason that, in different environments, they will also have different moral views (and not only moral ones). Specificity in indoctrinational work necessarily implies taking into account people's professional needs, interests, and goals. This is even truer with regard to classes. Two typical representatives of communist construction--the kolkhoz member and the worker--are absolutely distinct from one another in their needs, interests and concepts of values. Of course, this circumstance does not exclude the existence of universal moral principles, which is promoted by a unified method of production and unified ideology.

Helping to bring moral values to life successfully is the goal of activating individual, concrete work in moral indoctrination. In the sphere of indoctrination, the demand for maximum specificity also implies the obligation to take into account individual realization of moral values. The point is that any innovation of science and technology can be introduced in production and, consequently, in life, in precisely established time periods. At the same time, it is impossible for philosophical principles, in this case moral principles, to "be introduced" in a similar fashion.

Improving technical equipment is fundamentally possible if the corresponding scientifically substantiated technical innovation exists, along with the material base for carrying it out. Under the conditions of socialist production, the adoption of technical innovations does not bring in its wake any serious troubles and difficulties. The state of affairs is otherwise with the realization of moral values. In contrast to technical equipment, which is

"silently" obedient to our wishes and needs, people are by no means so submissive. This is how man is distinguished from everything else in existence, the fact that he can always act in his own way. He has the freedom to choose. This means that a man can share or not share various opinions. No matter how many, for example, moral principles are "introduced" to a man, if he does not accept them, does not share them, for him these principles remain foreign. A person's acceptance of any view or principle means, in the first place, intellectual consciousness of its significance. But from the point of view of realizing an idea this is still not all. Let us recall the words of K. Marx: "An idea becomes a material force when it seizes the masses."

The transformation of an idea into a material force means that it acquires value significance. People, the masses, set in motion not bare ideas but ideas as values, needs. Only people who are imbued with ideas speak in the language of values, demanding that which should be.

The "transformation" of ideas into values is a complex and prolonged process. The acceptance of various views or principles corresponding to action is carried out under the influence of the objective social environment, of measures carried out in a planned fashion by a group of people organized with a definite goal, and by means of self-activation of the individual. Thus, the influence of the social environment, indoctrination, and self-education are those necessary components without which it is impossible to speak of strengthening the role of the human factor. It is by this means that it is possible to humanize relations between people.

Ethics expresses greatly varied human relations by fundamental categories such as virtue and vice, duty, happiness, responsibility, conscience, justice, and so forth. The history of ethics testifies that various historical eras gave preference to certain moral values. For their part, historical types of ethics--the ethics of eudaimonism, the ethics of responsibility, the ethics of utilitarianism, or the ethics of values--point to fully distinct historical eras. This interconnection between a social era and the moral values then at the forefront is logical.

By virtue of objective circumstances, among the fundamental categories of ethics, in our social life the category of justice has come to the forefront. In the Political Paper of the CPSU Central Committee to the 27th Congress, delegates' speeches sharply posed the question of the "functioning" of the principle of justice. At the current stage of perfection of socialism, Marxist-Leninist ethics faces the task of seriously studying the place of the category of justice in the system of categories, along with the essence of its values and the specific characteristics of manifestations in real life.

Construction of the most just society on earth is the highest goal of our ideology. Therefore, concern cannot but be aroused by the circumstance that implementation of the principle of justice in our life is characterized by serious shortcomings or, more precisely, distortions. The essence of justice is connected with the distribution of that which is good. And it is distinct at every stage of social-economic development. K. Marx expressed the justice which is characteristic for the first stage of communism by the following principle: "From each according to his abilities, to each according to his labor." Elucidating this principle, K. Marx pointed out that it still contains elements

of injustice and inequality within itself. Labor is the source of a person's well-being, if he is not exploiting another person. At the first stage of communism, the well-known injustice and inequality in the distribution of good things is caused largely by the different physical and intellectual capabilities of people. At this stage, this circumstance can be considered a general shortcoming of justice.

It is manifested in a distinctive fashion at the current stage of development of our society. We can distinguish here two different types of violation of the principle of justice: the use of sources of unearned income and equal payment for the labor of good and poor workers. Unearned income and the leveling of wages for good and poor labor are completely unacceptable, not only for socialist justice, but also for the nature of socialism in general. They violate the principle of justice of socialism and promote the rise of opposing, unhealthy tendencies in this sphere. Consequently, realization of the principle of justice in our country meets with certain obstacles, the surmounting of which is an important condition for the further development of socialist justice. It is overcoming just these contradictions which is the goal of the CPSU Central Committee decree "On Measures To Step Up the Fight Against Unearned Income," which notes that the elimination of unearned income --foreign to the nature of socialism--is an important political, social-economic and indoctrinational task.

The main obstacle in the cause of realizing social justice--the exploitation of man by man--does not exist in our society. But this does not give us grounds for closing our eyes to the existing instances of injustice. If it is difficult for an honest man to earn a living, this means that the demand of social justice is not being fulfilled completely. It is always possible to find a theoretical explanation for such instances, but not an ethical justification. The construction of the house of communism means the construction of a just society. Justice should be carried out in accordance with the volume, quality, and extent of paid labor. But society, if it is healthy, will never be satisfied with partial justice, with the already achieved level of justice, it will strive for a more complete justice.

The program documents of the 27th CPSU Congress emphasize more than once the vast significance of the human factors in all spheres of social life. From the point of view of ethics this means the movement to the forefront of research on the problems of the ethical personality and, accordingly, criticism of bourgeois ethics and culture. At the congress it was emphasized that the "psychological war" unleashed in our day by bourgeois ideology is a fight for people's minds, their understanding of the world, and their vital, social, and spiritual reference points...." These reference points are nothing other than the highest values (good, justice, happiness, and so forth), without which it is impossible to conceive of the human existence of mankind.

Under these conditions, it becomes the urgent task of Marxist ethics to conduct fundamental research on moral values and determine their scale and the ethical aspects of problems of values in general. This is one of the most important conditions necessary to oppose the "psychological war" unleashed by bourgeois ideology and promote putting into effect truly humanistic values.

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SOCIAL ISSUES

KaSSR: SUPREME COURT PLENUM HEARS REPORT ON DRUG PROBLEM

Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 16 Oct 86 p 4

[Article by KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA correspondent M. Bayzhanov: "Against Narcotics Addiction and For the Person: Notes from the Kazakh SSR Supreme Court Plenum"]

[Text] In the process of purifying society of undesirable phenomena and asserting the healthy way of life, it is absolutely impossible to ignore the problem of combatting narcotics addiction and the illegal sale of narcotics. Official statistics show that in our republic there has been an increase in the number of persons using narcotics: the number of such persons who have been identified and registered is currently more than twice the number, say, five years ago, with half of them having the diagnosis "narcotics addiction." There has also been a doubling of the number of those who have been sent to mandatory treatment for narcotics addiction. There has also been an increase in the number of convictions for crimes linked with narcotics. The total of narcotics annually confiscated by militia agencies can be measured in tons...

These are alarming and sad statistics. But even these statistics do not give the complete picture, inasmuch as it is also necessary to keep in mind the number of persons who have not been registered, since this phenomenon basically has concealed forms.

The severity of the problem establishes the main lines of action -- preventing the evil from spreading, and protecting people against the pernicious addiction to narcotics. But this requires considerable efforts, as well as precise, coordinated work.

Recently a plan was prepared, providing for joint measures by law-enforcement agencies and other interested departments in the republic and the public, to execute the legislation dealing with the fight against narcotics addiction. Participation in the implementation of this plan became the topic of a large, serious discussion at an expanded plenum of the Kazakh SSR Supreme Court, to which were invited representatives of the procurator's office, agencies of internal affairs, the ministries of justice and public health, Gosagroprom, the Academy of Sciences, the trade unions, and the Komsomol.

On the eve of the plenum, Kazakh SSR Supreme Court Chairman T. Aytmukhambetov, in a conversation with me, stated, "We have not yet waged a completely intensive, purposeful fight against narcotics addiction, but, rather, have shamefacedly tried to minimize the instances that have been encountered more and more frequently. But the viruses of the disease have also reached our country and our republic. We shall not exaggerate the size of that disease or try to frighten the man in the street, but the situation is extremely serious. For the time being, the actions that have been applied to narcotics addicts have been, for the most part, punitive ones. But criminal punishment is an extreme measure. On the other hand, preventive work has not been carried out in any real manner."

It is not accidental that in her report at the plenum, Supreme Court member L. Basharimova emphasized that in the resolution of the problem it is necessary to take a combined approach, to unite all efforts and capabilities. Direct mention was made of the causes and conditions which, to a considerable degree, promote the spreading of narcotics addiction and the crimes linked with it. Little work has been done to destroy wild hemp, the raw material for the manufacture of hashish, which is the most widespread narcotic substance. Hemp plantations occupy large areas in Dzhambul, Chimkent, Taldy-Kurgan, Semipalatinsk, and certain other oblasts. There has been a lack of the proper supervision over land use, and this enables certain individuals to use their private plots for illegally growing hemp, opium poppies, and other plants containing narcotics. For the time being, only the militia is engaged in trying to locate these plantings, while the Gosagroprom subdivisions and the farm managers get involved in this job only after they have been ordered to do so.

Others who remain aloof are the local agencies of authority, especially the rural soviets, which ought to know first of all who is growing what on their territory. There have been many such instances in Chimkent Oblast. For example, a certain Nakipov, who lives in the village of Yangibazar, Leninskiy Rayon, for more than 20 years grew opium poppies, prepared a narcotic substance from them, and stored that substance. A certain Begaliyev, who lives in Tykubasskiy Rayon, grew hemp and produced hashish. Many people in the village knew about their illegal actions, and this was probably also known at the rural soviet, but everyone remained silent about it.

In a number of regions no provision has been made for the proper guarding of state opium plantations or the storage of the raw materials containing narcotics at the warehouses. And many dishonest people take advantage of that fact. Inhabitants of the city of Sarkand, Taldy-Kurgan Oblast -- Chistyakova, Naydenov, Ruppel, and others -- stole opium raw materials from the poppy fields of the Put Ilich Kolkhoz. The amount of the loss incurred by the kolkhoz came to 990 rubles. And Kolyshev, Salangereyev, and other stole 72 kilograms of oil-producing poppies from the warehouse on the same farm.

The administrative agencies and other departments have not yet defined the concrete, effective actions for locating and registering the persons who are using narcotic substances without a doctor's prescription, or for applying preventive and therapeutic measures to them. Workers at the narcotics institutions and the militia and the managers of enterprises, institutions,

and educational establishments rarely ask questions about bringing to administrative responsibility those persons who use narcotics, refuse treatment, and sometimes conceal such instances, as a result of which individual narcotics addicts remain outside the field of vision. In a word, there has been a sufficient number of causes and conditions that promote the spreading of the evil, but the status of the fight against narcotics addictions does not yet withstand criticism.

There have also been delays in the court practice, in the work of the agencies responsible for preliminary investigation and inquest. The persons who have been brought to criminal responsibility, for the most part, have been those who purchase narcotics, while those who engage in narcotics sales frequently remain unidentified. One's attention is attracted by the fact that the investigation, and then the courts, in many instances have made no attempt to locate the traders. And yet the dishonest dealers continue to make a tremendous amount of unearned income from other people's misfortune.

Various aspects of the problem were discussed at the plenum. They were mentioned by First Deputy Minister of Justice I. Teterkin; Kazakh SSR Deputy Procurator A. Yefimov; Kazakh SSR Minzdrav [Ministry of Health] Chief Narcologist M. Gonopolskiy; chairmen of the oblast and rayon courts; scientists; and experts. The chief idea expressed was that urgent measures and coordinated actions are needed. If we continue to fight narcotics addiction and the new variety of it -- toxomania -- at the present rates, they can soon take on more dangerous extent.

In the general opinion, the problem cannot be resolved simply by punitive measures. This is especially so since the existing legislation needs change, especially with regard to the differentiation of the crimes, as well as the intensity of the responsibility for the illegal manufacture, purchase, shipment, and sending of narcotic substances in considerable amounts. One is also concerned about the state of the narcological service. It is necessary to have a more extensive specialization in the types of dispensaries and outpatient clinics. For the time being, the number of trained medical cadres is very small. One continues to note a lack of the proper rate of activity on the part of the most interested departments -- the ministries of public health and of education and the State Committee for Vocational-Technical Training, namely, the teachers at the general educational schools, the foremen at the vocational-technical schools, and the doctors specializing in narcotics addiction could make a noticeable contribution to preventive work. The perniciousness and serious consequences of the evil must be explained to children at a very young age. In general, it will be necessary to do a lot and to start attacking the problem without delay.

The discussion that ensued was necessary and beneficial and it designated specific paths for eliminating the evil. It was re-emphasized that in our country the entire series of social measures has been directed at protecting the health of Soviet citizens, and our society is fighting for every individual, even one who has stumbled badly. Consequently, whenever a person encounters manifestations of narcotics addiction, he must not be a calm, passive bystander, or remain aloof. In addition to the administrative agencies, the entire public must rise up and engage in the struggle against this dangerous phenomenon and for the healthy way of life.

SOCIAL ISSUES

SOCIAL FIGURES COMMENT ON ANTI-ALCOHOL CAMPAIGN

Tbilisi KOMMUNIST GRUZII in Russian No 9, Sep 86 (signed to press 29 Aug 86)
pp 52-57

[Article consisting of responses by prominent Georgians to questions of KOMMUNIST GRUZII: "There Must Be No Indulgences Here!"]

[Text] The resolute measures planned a year ago by the party and the government to combat drunkenness and alcoholism have already yielded the first practical results. But much still remains to be done. And here the public is obliged to say its own weighty word. It is what must conduct a persistent fight to raise the overall culture of the population and affirm the temperate way of life. It is clear that, as was pointed out at the 27th CPSU Congress, "in the future too, great, persistent, and varied work is necessary in order to ensure a final break with the customary habits. There must be no indulgences here!"

The editorial office of KOMMUNIST GRUZII turned to representatives of the Georgian public with a request to answer the following questions:

1. How has the work to fulfill the CPSU Central Committee decree "On Measures To Eliminate Drunkenness and Alcoholism" affected the activities of labor collectives and the effort to make a healthier atmosphere?
2. What is your reaction to the opinion that the problem of drunkenness and alcoholism is not urgent for our republic?
3. Are you satisfied with the results of the fight against drunkenness and alcoholism and with the means and methods being used? How should this fight be carried on in the future?
4. As is well-known, most crimes, including malicious hooliganism and auto accidents, are committed in a

state of intoxication. Isn't it necessary to make sanctions more severe with regard to this sort of violation of the law?

The first responses received by the editorial office are produced below.

T. Khelashvili, first deputy chairman of the Georgian Republic Council of the Voluntary Society to Fight for Temperance:

1. Above all, I consider it necessary to note that under the leadership and with the support of party and soviet organs, trade union and Komsomol organizations, the country has created the Society to Fight for Temperance. In our republic, 700,000 activists are united in its ranks. This work is being carried out today by councils created in all rayons of the republic, and primary organizations of society in labor collectives, educational institutions, and in citizens' places of residence.

Since its very first steps, the Society To Fight for Temperance, along with other state and social organizations, has unfolded broad anti-alcohol propaganda. The various rayons of the republic and labor collectives are systematically conducting appropriate lectures, papers, and theoretical and practical conferences. Debates are organized, along with question and answer evenings, and other interesting functions; the activities of houses of culture and clubs have been livened up remarkably, mass sporting functions have acquired a broad scale, and tourist hikes and excursions are being actively conducted.

In the cities, rayons, production collectives, and in the streets, unified days, decades, and months devoted to fighting alcoholism are being conducted. More and more cities, villages, labor collectives, and streets are being declared no-alcohol zones and zones of sobriety; the number of these in our republic has reached almost 100.

Activization of the fight for temperance is being promoted to a great extent by the all-union campaigns "For Effective Labor and a Healthy Life" announced by the All-Union Society To Fight for Temperance and the USSR Journalists' Union. Since 1 February, the Council of the Society and the Journalists' Union have conducted approximately 1,600 raids, in which almost 6,000 activists participated. The objects of the raids were to organize industry, construction, transport, trade, consumer services, dormitories and houses of culture, clubs, and sports establishments. In addition, the raids being carried out are making it possible to discover instances of the use of equipment for home distilling and speculation in alcoholic drinks.

The instances discovered during the raids are discussed at meetings of the board of the society. They are frequently examined in bureaus of party committees and meetings of ispolkoms as well. The results of the raids are systematically published in the pages of oblast and rayon newspapers and broadcast on radio and television.

In the course of all-union raids, instances of violations of anti-alcohol legislation have been recorded. As a result, party and soviet organs imposed

various penalties on 538 individuals. A number of responsible workers, among whom there were even some communists, were relieved of their professional positions for violations of anti-alcohol legislation, and some were expelled from the party.

2. We are being rendered poor service by the harmful point of view, current among a certain segment of society, according to which drunkenness and alcoholism do not present any danger for our republic. This incorrect view makes the fight against this harmful phenomenon more difficult.

It is impossible to be a patriot of our people without experiencing unease due to the fact that during the last 15 years the number of alcoholics in Georgia almost quadrupled, and that in recent years abundant feasts and the consumption of wine and vodka products have increased among the young--and not only young men but young women also have succumbed to the "fashion." This very unusual phenomenon for our republic should arouse serious concern.

Is it possible to talk about the high culture of our people and at the same time have a tolerant attitude toward vices of our life such as hours-long drinking bouts involving many people, empty toasts, frequently ending in brawls and fighting, sometimes with the infliction of injuries on one another, and frequently with a fatal outcome?

It is impossible to be indifferent to the fact that in our republic the number of crimes committed in the soil of drunkenness and alcoholism is increasing, causing moral trauma to the family and society. Recently, due to alcoholism, our average life expectancy has decreased, and the death rate is increasing. Finally, it is impossible not to think over the fact that drunkenness and drinking bouts are leading to the degradation of the nation, and having a negative effect on the health of future generations.

All of this confirms once more that the fight to affirm the temperate way of life is a very urgent task for our republic.

3. As for the means and methods of our work, it should be frankly acknowledged that they are still not very effective and have a basically formal nature.

All the seriousness and state significance of the decisions taken is far from being deeply felt in all places. Unfortunately, the fight against drunkenness and alcoholism is not of a systematic, aggressive nature everywhere. High activization in this cause is not felt in all labor collectives. In a number of cases they content themselves with formal approval of the measures worked out by higher organs. In some regions we find an indifferent attitude, underestimation and inattention to the activities of the society, and to the cause of fighting for a temperate way of life in general.

We consider it worthwhile to create a competent organ under the Georgian Council of Ministers which would have the function of controlling and guiding the activity of all interested state and social organizations in the struggle for temperance.

At the same time, it is impossible to escape giving some attention to drug abuse as well, which has struck widely in Western society and poses a definite danger even for us. According to our deep conviction, the Society to Fight for Temperance should undertake to fight against drug abuse as well, for, just like alcohol, narcotics too are harmful in the same way to the human body, and they cause society a grave, incurable wound. In order to successfully combat this evil, it is necessary to strengthen the apparatus for governing society by cadres, and improve its financial and material situation.

We must on no account become reconciled to inactivity, passiveness, and a superficial and irresponsible attitude toward their obligations on the part of leaders of any link of our society, in particular of its primary organizations. The degree to which the fight to affirm the temperate way of life gets results, like the other problems facing our country, largely depends on the position taken by the leadership, on the style, forms and methods of its work at today's turning point.

I am sure that by the end of the century, dangerous phenomena such as alcoholism and drug abuse will be finally eliminated in our country. The guarantee of this is the firm decision of the party, government, and the entire people to bring the cause which has been begun to a victorious conclusion.

4. In the future, I believe there will be no need to increase legislative sanctions. It is only necessary that they be applied with regard to guilty parties more actively, with all strictness.

A. Shushanashvili, minister of justice, Georgian SSR:

1. The new legislation to increase the fight against drunkenness and alcoholism, and the measures implemented by party and soviet organs have caused positive shifts--cases of industrial injuries have decreased, along with crimes committed under the influence of alcohol, labor discipline has been strengthened, and there is greater order in automobile traffic and in public places. In the first half of this year, the number of people convicted for crimes committed in a state of intoxication decreased by 20 percent as compared with the corresponding period of last year. This includes murder, down by 36 percent; rape, by 47 percent; hooliganism, by 27 percent; and automobile accidents, by 24 percent. Even without the statistics it is clear that the quantity of drunken feasts with endless toasting (weddings, funerals, farewells [provody], and so forth) has gone down. And, more important, the very attitude of the public toward this has changed. People have realized that even without alcohol it is possible to live normally, to relax, to entertain guests. Even further, working people are beginning more and more often to ask the question whether the production and sale of alcoholic drinks should be banned altogether. This is by no means a product it is impossible to exist without. We must return its good name to the grapevine! With time this will happen.

2. The poison of alcohol exerts its disintegrating influence on everyone. The opinion that the problem of drunkenness and alcoholism is not urgent for our republic is false. Unfortunately, we have plenty of drunkards. Isn't it convincing enough to note the facts that the republic has approximately 20

medical sobering-up stations where approximately 30,000 individuals go every year, and that all but every instance of hooliganism is committed in the soil of drunkenness, as well as every other premeditated murder, one out of three cases of gangsterism, and one out of five accidents with human victims.

It should be emphasized here that endless feasts have always been condemned by representatives of advanced Georgian social thinking. Moreover, in the ancient Georgian legislative acts, a crime committed in a state of intoxication was an aggravating circumstance of guilt. This, incidentally, is not very often encountered in the legislative practice of other countries. But since a certain time, a process of falsification of national traditions has been observed. Fat cats and schemers who got rich from unearned income selected national customs and turned lovely rituals into a source of extortion and enrichment, organizing competitions in spending money with a merchant's scope. They are the ones who planted the point of view, foreign to our morality and our socialist way of life, that meeting guests, festive occasions and events are impossible without abundant libations.

The results of the work carried out assure us that there are nevertheless no grounds for complacency in our republic. In the fight against alcoholism we are still not using all resources and capabilities. Anti-alcohol propaganda should be of a more concrete, purposeful, and effective nature. The activities of social organizations should be activized, especially commissions to fight alcohol, people's courts, commissions, and inspections for juvenile affairs, and voluntary societies to fight for temperance. These organizations have been granted broad rights which they are not making full use of. Labor collectives are also failing to make full use of the rights granted to them by law. Although there are no longer any places for consuming alcoholic drinks directly in enterprises, it still must be acknowledged that an atmosphere of intolerance has been created around drunkards in far from all places. In many collectives, examination of instances of violations of anti-alcohol legislation is of a formal nature, there is no sense of strict exactingness of comrades. It is rare that a worker is transferred to a lower-paying job for drunkenness, deprived of prizes and awards, moved down on the waiting list to receive housing, and so forth. One of the reasons for drunkenness is the low organization of labor in production collectives. Forced delays, lack of rhythm, overtime work, and last-minute blitzes create favorable conditions for drunkenness.

4. I think that increasing the sanctions is unnecessary. Fairly strict measures of punishment have been established for malicious hooliganism--loss of freedom for a period from 1 to 5 years, and under especially aggravated circumstances--from 3 to 7 years. After all, hooliganism is a crime which is committed mainly in a state of intoxication. As for automobile accidents, it is well-known that strict administrative and criminal responsibility is established for operating vehicles in a state of intoxication. The commission of a moving violation in a state of intoxication, according to the legislation of our republic, evokes a higher responsibility and is punished more strictly than the same violation committed by a sober driver. In addition, for causing an automobile accident in a state of intoxication, any motor transport in the personal use of the guilty individual is confiscated. After this is done, the sum, minus expenses, is returned to the former owner. In short, it seems to

us that we should think not about changing the existing legislation but about enforcing it meticulously and exactly. Merely making the law more severe will not help matters if its possibilities are not used in a practical fashion, if there is no assurance and guarantee that not a single violation of the law will remain unanswered and that all people who break the law will be discovered in a timely fashion and receive proper punishment.

R. Dzhaparidze, writer:

1. The decree, you might say, has awakened the drowsing public thought. The spade, finally, was called a spade. But if our just, honorable fight is just a spurt of activity, if we allow ourselves to be satisfied with what we have achieved already, then we will be committing an uncorrectable mistake by this. It is necessary to acknowledge openly that what has been done is still very little. It is not enough merely to limit the consumption of strong drinks--it is necessary to eliminate the pull towards alcohol in people's minds, which, of course, is a very lengthy and complex process. But we must not be afraid of difficulties. We must have faith that we are waging war against a very evil enemy of our society which is undermining the spiritual foundations of each of its members, and that this fight is directed toward the good of mankind, of the entire nation.

2. I am not among the people who believe that the problem of alcoholism does not exist in our republic, that the serious social ailment has not touched us. I believe that this is empty posturing. Those who sincerely believe that there is no alcoholism in Georgia, no excessive passion for strong drinks, I would advise, as a friend, to glance about themselves and base their own judgments on personal impressions. I don't know about other people, but personally I know more than one alcoholic, people who cannot break out of the iron clutches of alcohol, who have betrayed their families, reduced their own human worth, put the fate of their own children at risk, traded talent and career for a glass of vodka instead of meeting life's difficulties standing tall, and ultimately disintegrated into nothingness. Can there really be anything more shameful for a man, a son of the nation, who according to tradition has always considered drunkenness degrading for a man, for his dignity? Georgians have always considered a man inferior who is excessively drawn to wine. And this is in the country of classical viticulture and wine.

Who used to drink vodka in order to get drunk? Practically nobody! In the whole rayon you could find maybe one, two people like that. But what happened later? What changed our views and customs? Incurable provincialism which turned habits foreign to our life into the norm.

And since the conversation has come around to alcoholics I know, I will say that I also know people who will be forced by the above-mentioned decree to take a look into the corners of their consciences, to turn their faces toward reality.

Quite recently I was the witness of a monstrous murder. A young man in his prime had his life taken away by a dead drunk scoundrel with a fragment of a bottle. A sorry patriot in another time might say that this does not threaten his children since it happened at the other end of the earth. But no, this

happened here, in Georgia, all the participants in the murder were Georgians --with higher education and pretensions to intelligence. Each of them was so drunk that he completely lost control of himself. Blood was spilled, and yet another man, full of unrealized plans and hopes, perished. Why? What for? The answer is simple--the alcohol dulled the reason, it took away people's elementary ability to understand where their own rights leave off and where someone's else's begin. This is a dreadful thing. Closing one's eyes to something I consider a crime against the nation. And as for those sorry patriots who appear in the role of uninvited advocates, I would advise them to seek after wisdom and stop looking at reality through rose-colored lenses.

3. It seems that many of the means and methods we are currently using are of a hasty and superficial nature. And others are simply naive.

The main thing for us is to create an atmosphere of intolerance toward drunkards everywhere--next door, at work, in public places.

Is it really significant when a drunkard buys the vodka--in the morning, during the day, or in the evening? In the ordinary food store where he has purchased it up to now or in special stores for selling alcoholic drinks? After all, it is possible to obtain vodka the day before, without violating the established rules of purchasing it, and then drink until losing consciousness. This is very similar to the way people hide candy from children. We must not give the drunkards occasion to laugh at us and make light of a serious social matter. This means that it is not important where and when vodka is obtained, but where, when and in what quantity it is consumed, and what moral casualties are thus inflicted on society.

If even a worker's showing up in an intoxicated state on the job or in public places does not cause any sort of harm, this should not remain unpunished. The person who loves to drink at an improper time should find out that this will result in unpleasantness for him.

4. I believe it is quite necessary to increase sanctions. Otherwise it will be difficult to protect society, honorable people, and their human value from the encroachments of unbridled drunkards and alcoholics. And after all, it is by the hands of modest working people that the edifice of our great future is being constructed.

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In conducting this examination with the questionnaire presented, the editorial office of KOMMUNIST GRUZII counts on attracting still greater attention to these questions and hopes that readers will participate in discussing them. Readers' opinions will be published in subsequent issues.

12255

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SOCIAL ISSUES

READER SAYS WOMEN SHOULD STAY HOME, RAISE CHILDREN

Minsk SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA in Russian 29 Oct 86 p 4

[Letter to the editor by E.A. Gromova of Minsk: "A Woman's Main Job"]

I read A. Antonov's article "Should We Be Afraid of Overpopulating the Earth?" (SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA, 11 Sep). I am completely in agreement with his statement that the birth rate in this country is too low, and that every healthy family should have at least three children, and more would even be better--better for the country, better for the woman's health, and better for the family. I also agree with his statement that in this delicate area, prohibitions and directives are of no use, and that children today have everything--comfortable homes, clothing and every kind of advantage. They have everything!

But they don't have what's most important--a mother. And no demographer and no amount of research will ever invent anything to replace her. I believe that all juvenile crimes and traumas, all forms of trouble stem from lack of supervision and control, from the fact that a mother's eye is not watching.

It is not difficult to count up the number of times a child sees his or her mother in the course of a day. For eight hours she is at work, and two (and often even more) she spends getting to and from work, running about from store to store and standing in lines after work. And then there is housework, of which there is always lots to do! Consider: In the best of cases, the mother returns between 6:00 and 7:00 pm, and the child has to go to bed two hours later. That means that the mother sees her children in the evening for two to three hours, and even then only in passing, while she is doing her household chores. And of course there's the morning too--one hour, if she's lucky. It's not hard to figure out. The mother is tired and the child is tired too; there's no time to talk, read awhile together, or discuss anything. And so it goes month after month, year after year, until the child has grown up in neglect. In point of fact, his parents hardly know him, nor he them. Well and good--if he grew up, he must not have gotten lost or gone astray. The parents are happy and so is society.

Unfortunately, things often turn out differently. A child is like plasticine. You can shape him into anything you like. If the mother isn't doing it, then as long as the child is not supervised, someone else will do the shaping....

They loaf about in the streets, stores and courtyards--and all of them in bands, looking for something, hunting for something. Uncontrolled, it's not long before they get into trouble--they're curious after all. And then we wonder where such badly brought up, uncouth, thieving children come from. And when they get older they become swindlers, drug addicts, alcoholics and hooligans. And it's all because the kids grew up on their own, without parents, though the parents do exist.

Between men and women, there should be equality in everything. But not at the expense of her rights and responsibilities. Women have proven they can do more than men. But we must not forget that it is the woman's duty to give birth to, and bring up children. When it comes to that, a man cannot replace her. And so in the workplace the man should shoulder an extra load (perhaps he should also be paid a little more?) in order to free the woman/mother from work for half the day, i.e., for four hours. I am convinced it will greatly reduce the number of unhappy children. What is more, women will strive to have not just one child, but two or three. Believe me, women need children; if they had the opportunity to raise them, women would try to have as many as possible.

Of course, I am not writing about or for myself. It has been a long time since I myself brought up and gave to this country two good children, of whom anyone could be proud. I did not work--I raised them. And in our times (after the war), it was very difficult to have two children. The difficulties were great. But my husband and I overcame them all. He provided for the family and I raised the children. And I became convinced that the most important thing in raising children is the mother.

We all want the children of our country, our grandchildren, to be good and well brought up, have a purpose in life and be kind. But all these qualities have to be learned as a child, and that should take place first and foremost in the home, in the family.

Something should therefore be done, but a child should have a mother.

13206

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SOCIAL ISSUES

BOOK ON FORMATION OF PUBLIC OPINION ON CRIME REVIEWED

Tbilisi KOMMUNIST GRUZII in Russian No 9, Sep 86 (signed to press 29 Aug 86)
pp 92-93

[Review by Georgiy Georgiyevich Todriya, senior scientific associate of the Georgian Academy of Sciences Institute of the Economy and the Law, candidate of legal sciences, of book by G. Yefremova, G. Lezhava, A. Ratinov, and T. Shavgulidze, "Obshchestvennoye mneniye i prestupleniye" [Public Opinion and Crime], Tbilisi, Metsniyereba, 1984: "Vital Study"]

[Text] Under conditions of accelerating the social and economic development of the country, the role of the human factor is increasing. Perfection of the economic mechanism is largely determined by how actively and consciously the masses participate in it. That is why the new edition of the CPSU Program clearly and precisely announces: "The party will steadfastly lead the line for the democratization of administration," in connection with which "we face the task of further improving the system...of studying public opinion."

The party's demand is also fully applicable to studying public opinion in the sphere of legal relations. The urgency of this direction is caused not only by the general spirit of developing our country, but also the fact that negative phenomena began to increase in the late 1970's, as a result of which there has been a widening circle of people with clearly expressed possessive strivings, with a scornful attitude toward public interests. It is obvious that in this connection legal science has discovered a need to explain the way of thinking of this group, the particular characteristics of its legal consciousness, and the mechanism by which social control acts on it.

In accordance with these questions of practice, already in the early 1980's legal science began restructuring the concepts about public opinion which had been built up in the sphere of legal relations.... The first results of a review on this subject are presented in the collective monograph "Obshchestvennoye mneniye i prestupleniye."

The first part of the monograph is devoted mainly to an examination of theoretical questions. Proceeding from an analysis of the nature of socialization of man in macro- and microsocial groups, as well as the processes of formation of consciousness in the individual, its author (Professor T. Shavgulidze) formulates the practical significance of the theory being developed: "The

process of indoctrination in the law is the process of creating and raising legal consciousness, it is the process of converting legal norms into truly personal norms," for "we can speak of legal consciousness anyplace where the laws are known, people are in sympathy with them, and a readiness to enforce the laws has developed--that is, in places where the legal norm has become the 'private norm' of the individual" (p 15).

Attention is focused on elucidating the active function of public opinion and the requirements of the law. The essence of their products is explained accordingly: ego-concept and legal consciousness, and also social and legal control as processes which crystallize in these subjective products. In the opinion of the author, the necessity of uncovering the regulative function of public opinion rests on explaining the seemingly obvious fact that although an individual is constantly under the influence of need--the source of activity--nevertheless his fate does not depend on it. Herein lies the reason which results in an individual's giving preference to some means of obtaining goals and closing the door to others. An important role in choosing the variant of behavior, as the author explains, belongs to the ego-concept (an individual's notion of his own objective value) which is formed in group relations and appears as the condition for securing legal control.

Disclosing the interconnection between objective and subjective factors of the process of motivation of legally significant behavior, among which public opinion and legal consciousness have decisive significance, the author emphasizes: "A high level of legal consciousness and a public opinion which is in sympathy with the demands of the law exclude the possibility of developing a criminal motive, since the subject cannot acknowledge criminal behavior as worthwhile and acceptable for himself if he and his social group have a previously developed readiness for lawful behavior" (p 52).

Innovation is seen in the definition of general behavior, mindset, motive, and other particular characteristics. The author approaches a conclusion about the necessity of orienting legal indoctrination of citizens in a socialist state in the direction of developing in them a mindset for observing legal norms. The general mindset, as a sort of program for life, lies at the foundation of an individual's behavior, dictating a certain direction to him. Thus, along with legal consciousness and ego-concept, the general mindset fulfills a leading role in unfolding the psychological structure of behavior.

The second part of the monograph is devoted to applied problems: the problem of the prestige of the law, law and order and law-enforcement organs (author G. Lezhava stresses attention on ways of forming respect for socialist law and delineates forms of public opinion on the functions of the law); evaluating the effectiveness of action of law enforcement organs by public opinion (author G. Yefremova analyzes the effectiveness of activity of investigative organs, organs of justice, and the activity of correctional establishments); the urgency of the problem of criminality in public opinion (author G. Lezhava makes broad use of the positive positions of foreign criminology and criminal psychology); discovering the public opinion and social-legal orientations of various groups of the population (authors A. Ratinov and G. Yefremova, who also study the relationship of violations of the law to criminal behavior, and public opinion).

The study concludes with an analysis of sources of legal information and their role in forming public opinion (author G. Lezhava).

The abundance of facts of comparative research is one of the merits of the empirical portion of the work, which has great practical significance. At the same time, with regard to its theoretical part, it must be said that, in our view, the matter should not be reduced to a circle of questions touching on discovering the essence of legal consciousness, nor should it be limited to a psychological approach. Further refining is also necessary in the delimitation of public opinion and group legal consciousness and individual legal consciousness and so forth, and for group and social control likewise.

Touching on the empirical part of the study, it might be noted that in explaining the particular characteristics of legal consciousness, the lawyer's point of view is taken as the criterion of truth. However, without the proper verification of the juridical point of view it is impossible to proclaim it the sole criterion of truth in evaluating social processes.

A work devoted to studying a complex phenomenon of the human factor--legal consciousness--unquestionably deserves widespread attention of practitioners and scientists.

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SOCIAL ISSUES

BOOK ON SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY, SOCIAL ROLE IN PRESERVING ORDER

Moscow OBSHCHESTVENNYYE NAUKI V SSSR: SERIYA 1--PROBLEMY NAUCHNOGO KOMMUNIZMA
in Russian No 5, Sep-Oct 86 (signed to press 13 Aug 86) pp 132-138

[Review by L. M. Bogachek of book "Sovetskaya demokratiya i pravoporyadok"
[Soviet Democracy and Law and Order], by T. M. Shamba. Moscow, Mysl, 1985,
160 pp.]

[Text] The work consists of three chapters. Improvement of the social relations of socialist society presupposes the gradual and steady extension of democracy in all the areas of its vital activity. Expansion of democracy also means the reinforcement of law and order. At the same time, reinforcing law and order, and granting broader and broader rights and freedoms to workers, leads to substantial shifts in the development of democracy and promotes the consolidation of citizens's conscious discipline. An important concept for clarifying the essence of law and order is the concept of socialist law. "...There are serious justifications for viewing law not only as the totality of the norms established and sanctioned by the state, but also as a series of closely interrelated phenomena at the level of social practice and social consciousness" (p 28). The legal norms are not the sole source of formation of law and order. Socialist law and order is also implemented "through legal principles which may also be unrecorded in the law, through legal ideas and theories that are being developed by legal science" (p 29). In order to develop the ideas concerning law and order, an important concept is the concept of the "legal system," which, in accordance with the treatment proposed in the book, includes the methods of expressing in legal acts the workers' interests, methods of guaranteeing the implementation of the law, the correlation between conviction and coercion in the implementation of the law, and the system of organizational and ideological forms and methods of influence which are used in connection with the adoption and implementation of the legal acts and norms. Socialist democratization acts as a real factor for protecting and reinforcing law and order. At the present stage in the development of Soviet society, democracy acts more and more precisely not only as the consequence, but also as the cause of progressive social changes. As such, "it possesses a truly inexhaustible potential" (p 49). V. I. Lenin advanced a reliable criterion for establishing the level of development of socialist democracy -- the real participation of the working masses in the administration of the state and society. In the ideal situation, no one must remain outside that activity. But the completeness of democracy in the sense

of every individual's personal participation in the resolution of state and social matters can be achieved only at the later stages in the development of socialist society. The present-day social and political situation in the USSR, however, attests to the fact that our democracy is entering a period of intensive development, when the indicators that are moving into the forefront are its qualitative ones: the effectiveness of democratic forms in state, economic, and social-cultural building. At the present time, in the author's opinion, "democracy has decisively entered the sphere of economics" (p 57) and most valuable here are the forms of production democracy, the effectiveness of which can be judged on the basis of "purely businesslike criteria, particularly the criteria of economic effectiveness" (Ibid.). But democratic principles have also "deeply penetrated" ideology and culture, reaching as far as such "deeply underlying" strata of social life as the family and everyday life. It is precisely here, where "at one time the patriarchal-authoritarian relations flourished, that socialist democracy has become an inseparable feature of society" (p 57). The brilliant examples that are cited allow the author to express the assertion that, unlike the bourgeois world, socialism deals not with "oases" of democracy, but with an integrated system, although it is one that can be measured by definite criteria.

The system of democracy does not coincide with the political system of socialism. In particular, the question of whether a specific individual is the subject of the political system seems to be a moot one. "But there is no doubt concerning the circumstance that the individual can and must act as an independent and important subject of the system of socialist democracy" (p. 58).

At the present stage of socialism, democracy must acquire new qualities since, "when democracy is of a genuine nature, it helps any cause, multiplies the efforts, and creates the conditions whereby not separate individuals, but, rather, dozens, hundreds, thousands, and, finally, millions of people work actively and selflessly to build a new life" (p 59). The chief qualitative criterion for democracy is linked with the interests of the complete development of the individual, with the formation of the new man. This goal in the development of democracy stands "above all of its practical tasks of today" (p 60). The system of socialist democracy as a whole acts as an organization that makes it possible to mobilize the intellectual resources of society, to take from the individual everything that he can give society in the form of "new ideas, the best decisions, efficient recommendations, etc.," not to mention his labor contribution (p 60). It is the task of democracy to open up a free outlet for every person's intellectual energy, to guarantee the optimal conditions for the application of his individual capabilities and talents. Those goals are served by the democratization of law and order. The sense of that democratization lies in assuring that every law contains a well-principled, just resolution of social problems and is oriented toward increasing the democratic activity rate of the citizens. It is also linked with the processes of democratization of the norm-creating activity rate of the workers, for example, with the nationwide discussion of the most important drafts of laws. Another area in the democratization of law and order encompasses various forms of the participation of the masses in the law-enforcement work of the state and public agencies and the agencies of independent public action. On the first level is participation in the work of

the soviets. In the light of CPSU documents of recent time, it is necessary to analyze "the reasons for the discrepancies between the very rich capabilities of the soviets and the way in which they are used in actuality, to develop means of combatting inertia, formalism, indecisiveness, and the fear of the new, and of combatting bureaucratic phenomena in the work of the soviets" (p 67). It is precisely the soviets, on their territory, which direct the organization of law and order, but the corresponding tasks can be resolved only if there is active cooperation by the citizens. It is necessary, by using the efforts of the activists, to ascertain public opinion about the work of the militia and other law-enforcement agencies, and to take that opinion into consideration when considering questions at soviet sessions, sessions of permanent commissions, etc. The soviets have been granted considerable rights with regard to the issuance of mandatory documents and the cessation of illegal documents and actions, including those of departmental agencies at a superior level of subordination. It is very important for that work to include the broad public. Already the recommendations and certifications of the labor collectives are taken into consideration when selecting and assigning the cadres at agencies of internal affairs. Consideration is also taken of the public's critical comments and wishes. A factor of special importance is the use of the entire power of the legal aktiv -- lawyers, legal consultants, and other professional jurists -- in order to render legal assistance to the public. In his time V. I. Lenin required communists to teach Soviet citizens how to fight for their rights, and to explain their rights to them.

In the system of Soviet socialist democracy, questions of the reinforcement and development of law and order are dealt with by all its basic links: the party, the state, social organizations, and labor collectives. For example, the trade unions have as their very important task the defense of the workers' rights and interests, and they are granted large rights. However, those rights are not always used effectively, particularly in the sphere of the reinforcement of labor discipline. A special place in the problematics of the reinforcement of democratic law and order is occupied by the problem of the individual -- "one of the key problems in the Marxist-Leninist theory of communist building and in practice" (p 109). As our society developed, the citizens' rights and freedoms constantly expanded. At the present time, with the existence of firm law and order, the members of society can make complete use of the rights and freedoms legally granted to them and carry out their obligations completely. Law and order has been called upon to prevent situations that would lead to the infringement on the interests and dignity of the citizens or would cause them material or psychological harm. The state and its agencies play the primary role in carrying out this function of law and order. But another side of the link between law and order and the legal status of the citizens "proceeds from the individual to legal order" (p 113). This feedback has a number of manifestations. The norms of Soviet law express the will and interests of the entire Soviet nation, and this guarantees the voluntary execution of the legal prescriptions and the moral censuring of those who disregard them. Citizens take active part in the reinforcement of law and order. This goal is also served by increasing the responsibility borne by the citizens to society. And when a citizen defends his right, when he fights against violation of that right, the state renders all kinds of assistance and support to him. V. I. Lenin considered the protection of the

citizens' right and freedoms to be a very important function of the party agencies and the state apparatus. He viewed every illegal action against citizens as an egregious instance and insisted on the immediate intervention of the competent agencies with the purpose of establishing the rights that had been violated. "Following Lenin's instructions, the Communist Party strives for a situation in which the knowledge of one's rights and the ability to employ them in the interests of building a new society becomes a very important feature of the Soviet man's active vital position, and his high political culture" (p 116).

In the author's opinion, under the present-day conditions a problem that is taking on great importance is the problem of "positive" legal responsibility as a prolonged legal relation that is closely linked with the awareness of one's duty, with obligation, with the prevention of violations of the law, and, especially, with the activity of officials. Positive legal duty "is not the duty of specific actions, but the duty to guarantee the 'final result.' It is interpreted as a definite, prolonged legal state of the responsible person (agency), despite his (its) proper behavior, that is, the fulfillment of the duties entrusted to him (it)" (p 121). The immediate practical goal of that goal is to reduce the effect of the impersonal factor in the legal responsibility borne by officials, especially in the sphere of administration. The higher the responsibility borne by the administrative cadres for the job assigned to them, the firmer the law and order will be.

The basic paths and means for guaranteeing the protection of socialist law and order under conditions of expanding socialist democracy would seem to be legal education, the prevention of violations of the law, and law-enforcement activity proper. One of the most important principles of legal education is its link with life. Legal education, in the author's opinion, cannot be reduced to enlightenment work, since it is only "in the personal experience of active participation in state and legal building that one sees the development of Soviet citizens's profound conviction concerning the justice and correctness of the legal institutions of the socialist state. It is precisely this 'practical education' that guarantees the democratism of the entire political system of socialism" (p 132). A problem that has taken on particular importance under present-day conditions is the problem of raising the level of the legal education of the workers in the soviet and economic apparatus.

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SOCIAL ISSUES

BOOK EXAMINES SOCIAL IMPACT OF MIGRATION FROM SMALLER CITIES

Moscow OBSHCHESTVENNYE NAUKI V SSSR: SERIYA 1--PROBLEMY NAUCHNOGO KOMMUNIZMA in Russian No 5, Sep-Oct 86 (signed to press 13 Aug 86) pp 110-113

[Review by G. P. Merkulova of book "Uchrezhdeniya kultury v nebolshom gorode i naseleniye: Sotsialno-demograficheskiye issledovaniya" [Institutions of Culture in the Small City and Population: Sociodemographic Research], by Ya. S. Kapelyush, V. V. Sazonov, and L. N. Fedotova. Moscow, Mysl, 1985, 157 pp.]

[Text] In 1984 the USSR had 285 large and major cities and 1,839 small and medium-sized cities (p 3). The predominant city-forming base for 45 percent of the small cities in the RSFSR was industry; 13, transport; 4, construction; and one percent, distributive-trade, sanitary, and scientific functions. Thirty-four percent of the cities had the function of servicing adjacent territories (p 16). The lack of opportunity to continue one's education or to find work on the basis of one's "calling" is one of the reasons for the increased migration from small cities, and the "erosion" of the able-bodied population. In the RSFSR, as many as two-fifths of secondary-school graduates from small cities get jobs in another locality (p 20). At the same time those cities actively "attract" the rural population, acting as a kind of transit point for migration to the large cities.

In small cities there are frequent deviations from the optimal proportions in the use of male and female labor. There are also noticeable differences in the sex structure of individual social groups. For example, in eight small cities in the RSFSR which were studied, women constitute 90 percent of the office employees, 72 percent of the specialists, 67 percent of the retirees, 39 percent of the managers, and 41 percent of the workers (p 21).

The educational level of the population in small cities is higher than in the rural locality, but lower than in the major cities: in 1979, out of every 1,000 persons, those with education no lower than secondary incomplete education numbered 723 in the cities, 492 in villages, and 662 in the studied small cities; those with higher education numbered, respectively, 93, 25, and 45 (p 22).

Almost half of the adult population in the small cities used to live in the countryside. In the small cities studied, 69 percent of the persons surveyed had a private plot, and 25 percent maintained livestock and poultry (p 23). Wherever the climatic conditions permit, the distribution of private plots is even greater.

The manner in which people spend their leisure time, including their communion with the values of spiritual culture, depends largely upon the family situation. In small cities the share of people living in families is somewhat greater than among the urban population. The matrimonial indicators there are also higher.

The cultural life of small cities is concentrated basically around the libraries, clubs, and movie theaters. Cultural services are also provided to the public in museums, parks, musical, sport, and art schools, Pioneer homes, branches of the Znaniye [Knowledge] society, the society of bibliophiles, and the society for the protection of monuments, at newspaper editorial offices, book stores, travel bureaus, etc. At the same time the creation of art galleries, symphony orchestras, and circuses there is not promising. As a whole, the authors feel, the residents of small cities have sufficient opportunities for satisfying their cultural needs, and with respect to the number of student accommodations in musical schools per 1,000 residents and certain other indicators they even surpass the larger cities.

The television receiver and radio receiver, newspaper, and the magazine act more and more frequently as the means of communion with the values of culture. "The mass media today equalize the opportunities for access to the spiritual values that they disseminate for inhabitants of any populated points" (p 37). With regard to regularity and frequency of use, the nation-wide information sources are situated in the following order: television, radio, newspapers, movies. It is typical that 31 percent of adult city dwellers see a movie every week, and 13 percent do not go to the movies even once a year. Among the former group, young people predominate, and among the latter, adults. On the whole, with regard to use of the mass media, the population of small cities is almost indistinguishable from the inhabitants of the capital cities.

Expansion of the group of readers in the mass libraries is not the most serious problem in providing cultural services in small cities. The tasks of improving the quality of book collections are immeasurably more important. Active readers, as a rule, visit museums, concerts, and so on twice as often as those who do not have library cards. In every city, regardless of its size, there are people with developed general and cultural needs and those who are typified by "cultural provincialism, the narrowness of spiritual demands" (p 65).

Alternative sources of cultural information, the authors feel, do not prevent each of them from fulfilling their function. In this sense also, devotion to the television set by no means always indicates the lack of development of cultural needs. In small and medium-sized cities the cultural function of the club is exceptionally important. The club membership in small cities can be divided into actual and casual. The former constitutes 31 percent of the adult population, and the latter, 45 percent (37 percent of the local

inhabitants regularly visit libraries) (p 70). The most popular activity at a club is the showing of a movie. As a whole, the rate of attendance at club activities is determined by their quantity: "real consumption follows real supply, inasmuch as, for the population of a small city, the area of choice among the mass club activities is not great" (pp 70-71).

It was established during the survey that the population in small cities feels the attraction to "great" art, represented by plays and by concerts given by professional performers. The demand for concerts and plays by professionals is satisfied to an extremely unsatisfactory degree, and the concerts and plays presented by amateur performers are frequently more important for the performers themselves than for the audience. It was also revealed that the number of persons who wanted to visit the club to see a movie, to attend a lecture, or to hear a concert presented by amateur performers proved to be smaller than the number of the persons actually participating in those activities. Consequently, "the inhabitants attend club activities without any particular eagerness to do so, simply because there are no other activities to attend" (p 73). Television, radio, and amateur groups do not ease but, rather, only aggravate "the need of the population in small and medium-sized cities for direct contact with the professional theater" (p 116).

The population in small cities obviously gravitates toward spectacular types of entertainment. But the efforts of the cultural workers to bring the audience out of a state of passivity, to develop creative potentials, most frequently do not achieve their goal. Measures of this type are unpopular.

It is typical that the population of small cities (as well as of larger-scale cities) prefer to visit museums that are situated far from home. The considerable increase in the museum attendance rate is directly linked with the development of tourism.

At the present time, small cities prove to be far from the guest-performance circuits of professional theaters. In this respect their lagging behind is detected even when compared with the rural localities. The repertoire of the guest performers also leaves much to be desired. For example, in the cities that were studied, 86 percent of the concerts given by guest artists were performed on stage (p 123). The basic route for improving the theatrical services provided to the public in provincial cities is not in the opening of a theater in each of them, but in also increasing the diversity of the guest roles. The organizing of group trips to theatrical centers is also extremely promising.

Almost one-fourth of the population in small cities practically ignore the system of cultural institutions. The persons who do not visit the club or the local library should, however, not be included in the category of "uncultured," if only because they have contacts with culture in its "domestic" forms. At the same time, increased cultural activity does not always correspond to the educational level and is not inherent in any particular social and demographic groups.

The problem of providing the population with cultural values should be resolved on the nationwide and local levels. It is necessary everywhere to reinforce the material base of culture, to raise the proficiency level and permanency of the cultural and educational workers, and to develop and introduce into practice new, nonstandard forms of cultural activity.

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SOCIAL ISSUES

BOOK CALLS FOR SCHOOLING CHANGES TO MATCH SOCIAL STRUCTURE

Moscow OBSHCHESTVENNIYE NAUKI V SSSR: SERIYA 1--PROBLEMY NAUCHNOGO KOMMUNIZMA in Russian No 5, Sep-Oct 86 (signed to press 13 Aug 86) pp 61-67

[Review by P. I. Shlemin of book "Razvitiye sotsialnoy struktury obshchestva v SSSR: Aktualnyy problemy sotsiologicheskikh issledovaniy" ["Development of the Social Structure of Society in the USSR: Vitally Important Problems of Sociological Research"], by N. A. Aitov, Yu. V. Arutyunyan, Ye. M. Babosov, et al.,; Responsible Editor V. N. Ivanov; USSR Academy of Sciences, Institute of Sociological Research." Moscow, Nauka, 1985, 190 pp.]

[Text] Social shifts -- from physical labor to mental, from village to city -- for the time being continue to occur spontaneously, to a considerable degree, in the course of replacing one generation with another under conditions of freedom of choosing one's path in life (p 11). The social orientations of persons entering life do not completely correspond to the needs of the socioeconomic development of society. One detects here contradictions that are nonantagonistic in nature. To a certain degree they can be resolved by means of introducing universal occupational education. The latter has been called upon to guarantee the planned supplementing of labor collectives in conformity with those proportions that appear to be optimal. The authors assume that, of the flood of graduates of general-educational schools, 10-12 percent should be channeled into institutions of higher learning, 12-15 percent into tekhniums, and the rest into PTU [vocational-technical schools] (p 14).

It is namely this proportion which is provided for in the indicated school reform's doubling of admissions to SPTU [rural vocational-technical schools] by the beginning of the 1990's. It is assumed that there will also be a corresponding change in young people's life plans. For the time being, however, many vocational-technical schools are experiencing difficulties with the recruitment of students: as of 1 September 1982 they had an enrollment of 86.5 percent and it was not until 1 January 1983 that the enrollment was completed by means of the creation of "atypical [neprofilnyy] groups" (p 14).

One of the most important indicators of the degree of social equality is the nature of distributional relations, in particular, the correlation between the public consumption funds (OFP) and the wage fund based on labor. At the present time slightly more than half the payments from the public consumption

funds (pensions, temporary unemployment benefits) depends, although indirectly, upon the level of wages. The rest is made up of expenditures for housing construction and the maintenance of housing, for the maintenance of educational institutions, to pay grants in aid when children are born and to support children in large families, expenditures for the protection of public health and for the development of physical culture and sport, subsidies for theaters, libraries, clubs, etc. In no way can the public consumption funds be viewed as the beginning of communist forms of distribution. Moreover, they aggravate social inequality, inasmuch as some persons (families) can use various forms of payments and benefits, while others who are in an analogous situation with regard to family makeup and income level cannot. It is obvious that "there is a vital need for substantial adjustments in the use of the public consumption funds for purposes of increasing the labor participation of the workers and the labor collectives. Those adjustments must proceed in the direction of the more consistent implementation of the principle of payment from personal funds obtained on the basis of the results of one's labor, and blessings and services in excess of the socially guaranteed minimum in those spheres where the public consumption funds have a considerable role (housing, public health, education, culture)" (p 20).

At the present time the greatest differences in the payment of labor exist not between the basic social groups, but between the social segments within them: the difference in payment of labor, on the average, is as much as 4:1. There are also large interbranch differences: if one takes the average payment of labor in industry as 100, on sovkhoses in 1983 that indicator constituted 85; in communications institutions, 76.5; in public education, 69.3; and for cultural workers, 57.5 (p 20). The authors also feel that the regional differences in the payment of labor are also unjustifiably large.

Improvement in the system of labor payment requires taking maximum consideration of the real results of labor. It is proposed that the further extension of cost accounting be linked to providing enterprises with greater economic independence, and to the introduction of more flexible differentiation in the payment of labor.

Analysis of the statistical material indicates that the country's principal cities, as well as the regional centers, develop considerably more rapidly than small and medium-sized cities, as a consequence of which the differences between them are aggravated. The priority in development belongs to the cities with over one million inhabitants. The group of large and major cities is developing at a comparatively stable rate, whereas the small ones are losing population. On the whole it is necessary to take a differentiated approach to developing the settlement structure in various republics. In the cities, however, most of those employed are concentrated chiefly in mental labor. The further increase in their number is being retarded by the strained manpower balance sheet in industry and transport.

"The merging [sliyaniye] of friendly classes is carried out on the basis of the social status of the working class" (p 59). In this process one must also utilize the experience of the democratic principles of administration that has been accumulated on the kolkhoses.

As a result of the development of the scientific-technical revolution and the growth in people's culture there has been an increase in the number of intellectuals. In 1984 the share of the intellectual class reached 26 percent of the population of the USSR, as compared with 22.1 percent in 1970 (p 59). Workers and peasants "are learning more and more from the intellectuals and are enriching their own labor with intellectual content and achieving a high level of modern culture" (p 60). Sociologists have revealed the higher creative content of the labor performed by the intellectuals and their corresponding satisfaction with their work.

A factor of decisive importance in the formation of the social ties in labor relations is the labor collective. That collective is arriving to replace the classes as an element of the classless social structure.

Under present-day conditions all the needs for creative labor cannot be satisfied. This requires the intensive and long-term development of the material-technical base of production and a change in the social development of labor. This also pertains to the need for improving working conditions. "However, satisfying the increased need to participate in the administration of production is possible and proper at the present time, and it is precisely this which will be a very strong social lever to implement the first two tasks" (p 82).

Approximately one-fourth of all workers are employed in labor requiring a low level of proficiency and one-fifth in labor requiring a high level (p 83). This ratio is far from the optimal one, and moreover in the 1970's the processes of reducing the number of workers with a low level of proficiency and increasing the number of highly proficient ones were slowed down. The existing structure of work places is oriented basically toward the low and middle categories of manual operations. Despite all of this, the authors assume that one can speak of "shifts 'along the vertical'" only as applicable to intraclass shifts (for the working class) and intragroup shifts (for the intellectual class). As for interclass shifts, as well as shifts between classes and the intellectual class, they "cannot be viewed as 'vertical' ones in socialist society" (p 82).

The concept of "village" designates "an inwardly differentiated social and territorial integrity which is formed historically in the process of the social division of labor and which is characterized by a definite type of social organization of the population, as well as by the specifics of its social structure and way of life" (p 90).

Approximately one-half the rural workers are employed directly in vegetable growing and animal husbandry; one-fourth in the cultural sphere and in the providing of trade and personal services; and the rest in providing production services for agriculture, the processing of agricultural output, in construction, and in industry that is not linked with the APK [agroindustrial complex]. When choosing the sphere in which to apply his labor, the village inhabitant (Ed. note: average statistical) has the opportunity to acquire 160 agricultural occupations and several hundred additional ones in the personal-services sphere and in other nonagrarian spheres (p 92).

It is noted that the absolute majority of the giant kolkhozes are situated in the southern rayons that are favorable for agriculture. For the rest of the farms, the limits to consolidation have been set by natural conditions, by the large distances separating agricultural areas and the shallow relief in those areas, by difficulties in transportation ties, and by low population density. "For most of the northern kolkhozes, income does not exceed 200,000 rubles per year, and that is insufficient for independent major construction. 'Cooperative action by cooperatives' became for them that form of management that made it possible to combine their funds for purposes of the further concentration and specialization of production, and of increasing the effectiveness of their activity" (p 99). The gradual conversion of the sovkhoses to cost accounting also creates the prerequisites for their participation in interfarm cooperative action. Group interest in interfarm associations to a greater degree than on individual farms is combined with the interest of the national economy as a whole. This is taking on dominant nature under conditions of the formation of the agroindustrial complex.

The accelerated growth of the intellectual class as a social group attests to the possibilities for also increasing the country's intellectual potential and for massive social shifts. At the same time there has been an excessive growth in the number of humanities specialists, artists, musicians, etc. The planning of their training does not correspond to social need. There have been massive and poorly controlled shifts of specialists among regions, branches, and occupations. These shifts, however, have been limited to definite age confines. It has been established that the size of almost all social groups up to the age of 30 years has been stabilized (p 129). Further changes are expressed in certain shifts of employees and practical specialists and a number of specialists with higher education.

At the present time 82.5 percent of workers, 69.5 percent of kolkhoz members, and 98.7 percent of office employees have higher and secondary (complete and incomplete) education. The gap with regard to this indicator between the workers in chiefly physical and chiefly mental labor dropped from 57.1 points in 1959 to 17.1 in 1984 (p 33). There was also a change in the "coefficient of exit" to higher schools from various social groups. But as a whole the social makeup of the student body still differs substantially from the social makeup of the population. This is especially noticeable in the universities and other higher educational institutions specializing in the humanities. As a whole the share of students who come from intellectual families is almost twice the percentage in the overall size of the population.

Concerning the optimal filling of all existing work places and the efficient execution of the corresponding activity, socialist society, the authors feel, is equally self-interested in both the hereditary nature of the such activity and in social and occupational shifts. "Hereditry contributes to the better assimilation of occupational functions linked with the execution of social stereotypes and value orientations, since many of the prerequisites for this are formed "secretly" in the course of the development and education of young people within the particular social and occupational group... But shifts make it possible to fill the entire spectrum of work places that are needed by society, especially the newly arising and rapidly growing ones, and to take

into consideration the individual opportunities in the best execution of the appropriate functions" (p 139).

The greatest rate of satisfaction with the residential area is noted in the large cities. Differences in the degree of satisfaction "among the workers in small cities, rural centers, and the rural periphery are less than between the workers in that group as a whole and the inhabitants of major cities" (p 180). Differences in the way of life are the basic reason for territorial shifts. In particular, there has been an increase in the attractiveness of the urban way of life. The introduction of its stereotypes is carried out by means of urbanizing the countryside.

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